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12-POINT AGREEMENT WITH CADESCA REVEALED

FL272344 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2147 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Argentina and the Action Committee to Support the Economic and Social Development of Central America [Comite de Accion de Apoyo al Desarrollo Economico y Social de Centroamerica] (CADESCA) have agreed to work together in 12 areas to diminish Central America's problems.

NOTIMEX learned here today of an Argentine Government document, in which it is reported that the secretary of CADESCA, Mexican Benward Garcia Medrano, and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo had agreed on 12 areas of joint action.

Foremost among the points were: that Argentina would give political support to CADESCA's measures to acquire from Japan financing for $250 million for the Central American Common Market Fund; and that it would give political support to the Central American governments in their dealings with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which began meeting Monday in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Caputo also offered to open Argentine markets to Central American products, cooperate in a training program for mid-level public officials, support the revitalization of Central American industry, and donate food.

CADESCA was founded early last December at the initiative of the Contadora Group within the framework of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and it met for the first time during 1-6 March in Mexico City.

CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY PLANT FLAG ON FALKLANDS

PY280138 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0046 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- Ham radio operators who did not identify themsevles have told the local newspaper CRONICA that on Monday night they monitored a radio message announcing that Osvaldo Destefanis, president of the Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland, has landed on the Malvinas Islands and had planted an Argentine flag there.

According to the ham operators, the communique said: Operation Sovereignty successfully completed. The national flag is waving over the Malvinas. They also told CRONICA by telephone that the unidentified radio message noted that Destefanis and Ramon Pizarro, of the Commission of Relatives of Servicemen Killed on the Malvinas, had arrived in the archipelago by sea.

The message also said that a staff with an Argentine flag had been planted there along with a communique urging Great Britain to withdraw its troops from the island.

CGT EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR CHILEAN WORKERS

PY271417 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0301 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM) -- In view of the rally scheduled for tomorrow by the Chilean workers, the Argentine General Confederation of Labor [CGT] has expressed all its support to the fellow workers of the brotherly country in this new demonstration against the Chilean dictatorship.

In a communique the CGT states that it is compelled to express support for the cause of the Chilean workers, because the CGT itself also faces in its role as representative of the Argentine working class, a repressive dictatorship in a struggle which finally led to the institutionalization of the fatherland, which is also the objective of the Chilean workers, the communique concludes.

BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PY280104 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Bolivian Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado arrived in Argentina shortly before 1300. He came at the invitation of Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to start the first round of talks which will continue throughout 1984. One of our journalists assigned to Ezeiza Airport interviewed Ortiz Mercado.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Bolivian Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado arrived in Argentina and made statements at Ezeiza Airport.

[Ortiz] Actually, I have come at the invitation of the Argentine foreign minister to start a round of talks, talks which are to continue throughout 1984 to strengthen time-honored ties between Bolivia and Argentina, and to set up a new modus operandi in bilateral relations on trade, finance, and other issues of common interest.

[Question] How much does Bolivia owe to Argentina, and vice versa?

[Ortiz] Well, the Bolivian debt to Argentina was thoroughly renegotiated with the former Argentina Government. The Argentine debt to Bolivia stems from gas sales.

[Question] Will the Argentine debt be renegotiated?

[Ortiz] Well, we will be discussing the full spectrum of our ties.

[Question] One last question. Regarding Argentina's stand on Arce Gomez, was it well received in Bolivia?

[Ortiz] This was a sovereign Argentine right. Of course, Bolivians viewed this move with sympathy. [end recording]

CLAIMS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SUBMITTED

PY271423 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Mar 84 p 13

[Text] (NA) -- The Defense Ministry has received a total of 309 accusations against members of the Armed Forces for excesses carried out during the so-called dirty war against leftwing subversion, Under-Secretary Horacio Jaunarena reported yesterday, a week after the closing of a deadline on such claims.

Of the total number of accusations of human rights violations by the Armed Forces, 237 were handed in personally, while the remaining 72 were sent in by post, the official said.

These accusations, he said, "will now be sent over to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which will study them, summon in and question" whichever persons may be involved in the accusation.

A lawsuit brought to court by President Raul Alfonsin on December 13, (1983) against members of the first three ruling military juntas as well as other high military officials refers "to such crimes as homicide, illegal detention, subjecting prisoners to torture, as well as any other crime which they may have committed, either directly or indirectly, either as instigators or as accomplices," Jaunarena explained.

ALFONSIN AIDE GREPPI RELEASED FROM JAIL

PY271601 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1027 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Santa Rosa, 24 Mar (NA) -- The presidential aid, Lieutenant Colonel Nestor Greppi, and two other Army officers have been released on provisional freedom for "lack of evidence" for prosecution for alleged ill-treatment of political prisoners in 1976 and 1977. The three lieutenant colonels were released after 12 days in prison according to orders issued by Judge Jorge Baglietto, who also ordered the prosecution and preventive custody of four policemen charged with the same crime.

Greppi was released last night along with Lieutenant Colonel Baraldi and Lieutenant Colonel Juan Jose Amerante, while police station chief Roberto Fiourucci, deputy station chief Athos Reta, and NCO's Nestor Cenizo and Carlos Reinhard were arrested on the grounds of "reasonable evidence" of their involvement in the torture charges raised by former Peronist Deputies Hermes Accatoli and Ricardo Gil. Although the three military officers and two policemen were released, this is a provisional measure since much evidence and many declarations against them have yet to be studied.

President Raul Alfonsin's aide was secretary general of the La Pampa Province government under the military government, while Amarante was a labor Ministry official and Baraldini was chief of provincial police.

ALFONSIN APPOINTS REPRESENTATIVE TO UNION TALKS

PY271734 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today announced President Raul Alfonsin's decision to appoint union leader Hugo Barrionuevo as his personal representative to the union normalization negotiations.

Barrionuev 's task will mainly be to seek an understanding to overcome union problems. Lopez said that he will also seek a rapprochement between various groups to draw up broad democratic and participatory rules, some of which were unanimously approved during a recent congressional session in which the union normalization bill was discussed.

It is worth noting that President Alfonsin held a long meeting with Hugo Barrionuevo at the Olivos residence over the weekend.

CLOSURE OF ABC COLOR IN PARAGUAY CONDEMNED

PY271742 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "The Closing of ABC COLOR"]

[Text] If indeed it is true -- and it certainly is -- that freedom of the press is the barometer of the general level of freedom that a people enjoy, one cannot but deeply regret the situation Paraguay is presently experiencing.

The closure for an idefinite period of time of the newspaper ABC COLOR -- which was ordered by the government under the pretext that the newspaper was a threat "to peace and the stability of national institutions" -- obviously shows that an atmosphere of political repression and human rights violations, which has been denounced several times in international forums, prevails in this neighboring country.

By ordering the closing of this newspaper, while its director is still in prison, the Paraguayan Government has not only issued a heavy blow to the cause of freedom of the press but it has also provided a solid argument to its enemies since it is showing that it is unwilling to accept any criticism.

We have several times expressed that without the existence of a press that freely informs public opinion, there can be no democracy or a republican order. It is essential to respect freedom of the press because in doing so one guarantees the respect of all the constitutional freedoms of any civilized society.

When a government takes upon itself the power to arbitrarily establish limits to exercise this basic freedom, it condemns the entire community -- and itself -- to be misinformed and to lose contact with reality. When the mass media is arbitrarily silenced by a government, the role of the press to clarify, to counterbalance positions, and to guide public opinion is undermined and, therefore, all possibility of organizing a society on the basis of true democratic pluralism disappears.

The official argument that the closed newspaper spread "subversive statements" or that it carried information aimed at "causing public disorder" lacks any credibility and cannot fool anyone. It is well known that all attacks against freedom of the press are carried out under this pretext. It is also well known that for many governments any opinion or information that is not kind to its ears is considered to be either 'seditious" or "subversive."

The closure of the newspaper ABC COLOR is a typical authoritarian action inspired by the naive belief that throwing a cloak of silence over certain facts will hide the truth. However, those governments that commit this error only condemn themselves to live in isolation, and it is well known that usually they have to pay a very heavy price for this isolation.

The free press of the Americas must categorically demand that the Paraguayan Government repeal the arbitrary measure it has adopted against the newspaper ABC COLOR and to free its publisher as soon as possible.

VICE PRESIDENT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AMENDMENT

PY271238 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] President Figueiredo is willing to send an amendment to Congress asking for a return to direct elections for the presidency. This was reported by Vice President Aureliano Chaves after he met with President Figueiredo to report on his trip to the United States.

During a meeting with the press after his visit with the president, Chaves stressed that an institutional crisis does not exist in the country. But, he said, there are some undercurrents.

Correspondent Carlos Rodrigues reports that Aureliano Chaves officially refuted that he is against the amendment that calls for immediate direct elections.

[Begin Rodrigues relay from Brasilia] Vice President Aureliano Chaves has said in Brasilia that he does not approve the PDS [Social Democratic Party] campaign against the Dante de Oliveira amendment, which demands direct elections for President Figueiredo's successor. The amendment is to be voted on on 25 April. The policy that is being defended by Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel and PDS deputies linked to the candidacy of Paulo Maluf [PDS deputy for Sao Paulo State] is being managed in Congress by Deputy Nilson Gibson, Pernambuco State. Gibson will submit a request on 30 March to PDS President Jose Sarney requesting that the campaign against the amendment be suspended.

Vice President Aureliano Chaves met with President Figueiredo in his Planalto office. Chaves indicated that the president continues to study the alternative draft amendment drawn up by Minister Leitao de Abreu. This alternative calls for the implementation of direct elections for president as of 1988.

[Begin Chaves recording] He [the president] told me that he is quite willing to submit an amendment, but it will be a different one. I found the president very understanding at times. [end recording]

President Figueiredo also met with another presidential candidate, Interior Minister Mario Andreazza, who told the president that he and the political factions backing him want the president to send an affirmative answer to Congress before the Dante de Oliveira amendment is voted on. Andreazza again stressed that the Dante de Oliveira amendment will not be approved by Congress.

Carlos Rodrigues from Brasilia for Primeira Hora. [end relay]

RIO DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTS DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY231730 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Mar 84, p 1

[Excerpt] About 120,000 people -- the Military Police said there were 140,000 [and] the organizers said 300,000 people -- took part in a demonstration supporting the reestablishment of direct electins now. The march began in Candelaria Street at about 1530, moving along Rio Branco Avenue to the Obelisk where the public rally started at 1800.

The people who spoke at the Obelisk were Senator Saturnino Braga of the Democratic Worker's Party; Jorge Gama of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party; Luis Inacio da Silva, president of the Workers Party'; and representatives of union organizations and popular movements. The illegal Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], the Communist Party of Brazil, and the 8 October Revolutionary Movement, which had their red flags along the avenue, were prohibited from speaking by the state governor, with the exception of Luis Carlos Prestes, former PCB secretary general.

FIGUEIREDO REPORTEDLY IMPOSES CABINET TRUCE

PY271616 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[By Henrique Gonzaga Junior]

[Excerpt] According to orders issued by President Figueiredo, Justice Minister Abi-Ackel is to stop harassing Leitao de Abreu, the chief of Civilian Household of the Cabinet; and Nelson Marchezan, leader of the government in the Chamber of Deputies. The truce adopted by the president on the night of 22 March -- and imposed on Abi-Ackel the same day -- may indicate that Figueiredo has already made up his mind regarding the drafting of an amendment proposing direct elections for the election of his successor's successor.

Until 16 March, when the president decided to enforce a truce, something about which he informed Marchezan in advance, people at Mario Andreazza's and Paulo Maluf's election headquarters were betting on the imminent fall of Leitao de Abreu. But people at the Interior Ministry went even further: They believe that the justice minister would also be removed because he continues to support Maluf's candidacy despite efforts to bring him over the Andreazza's side.

According to statements issued by legislators, Abi-Ackel has been used by General Octavio Medeiros, the chief of the SNI [National Intelligence Service], to torpedo the negotiating efforts carried out by Minister Leitao de Abreu and Nelson Marchezan.

Yesterday, the justice minister telephoned PDS [Social Democratic Party] legislators to deny recent rumors about him, Leitao, and Marchezan. He assured at least one of these legislators of the appreciation, respect, and the "friendly terms" that "have always" characterized relations between him and the chief of the Civilian Household of the Cabinet.

'PROFOUND DIVERGENCIES' SEEN IN REGIME

PY252315 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 25/26 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[By Herbert Zschech]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- The announcement last Monday that Navy Minister Maximiano Fonseca was leaving came as a shocking surprise to many people. It was generally seen as a new symptom of profound divergencies within the government. That Fonseca left for "personal reasons" was the courteous formula nearly always used to avoid saying that he was fired.

But why?

Explanations attributed to presidential office sources said he provoked discontent by stating in a press interview he could see nothing objectionable in street manifestations organized by political groups in favor of direct election of Figueiredo's successor as long as they were orderly, without causing disturbances and riots.

By saying so he merely repeated what is in the present constitution. It can only be presumed that he was suspected of advocating direct elections, which would be tantamount to his siding with the opposition against the president. This evidently would be a position hardly compatible with the post of a minister, especially that of a military minister.

The rather cordial words used by Figueiredo during the ceremonial transfer of the ministry to Fonseca's successor, where Figueiredo called him his friend, seem to confirm that the reasons for his ouster really were political, not personal.

Different from this case, the reasons for the ouster of a few days earlier of Agriculture Minister Stabile were not political but linked to suspicion of uncorrect handling of credits in favor of a family member. But the new minister of agriculture, Nestor Jost, threatened to resign only a few days after assuming his duties if the government failed to provide credits deemed indispensable for the farming program.

Here again was a case of dissension within the government.

Conflicts within the government seemed about to erupt dangerously last week over the successorial problem. Figueiredo had suggested sounding out all the PDS members of the electoral college on what suggestions they could make on the strategy to be used by the government for thwarting the opposition campaign for direct presidential election which Figueiredo has emphatically ruled out. PDS leaders Nelson Marchesan and Jose Sarney confidentially interpellated the PDS deputies and found, to their unpleasant surprise, that Justice Minister Abi-Ackel was doing the same. This led to mutual attacks and to complaints brought to Figueiredo. It was noted also that Abi-Ackel's findings did not combine with those gathered by the PDS leaders which may cause the impression that both heard what they wished to hear and that the real attitude of the PDS majority on the succession problem is still quite uncertain. Many PDS politicians probably want to preserve their freedom of action as long as possible, not closing the doors to eventual accords with the opposition. These incidents reinforced rumors about Abi-Ackel's imminent resignment, not confirmed so far, which would be the third ministerial crisis within a month.

Serious divergencies on political strategy were reported to have arisen also between Figueiredo's office chief Leitao de Abreu and the chief of the Intelligence Service Gen Medeiros, involving still other high ranking officials within the innermost presidential circle. Besides possible personal rivalries and jealousies, the crucial theme of the divergencies lies in the question of how to defeat in the Congress the Dante de Oliveira (PMDB) constitutional amendment, up for debate and voting on and after April 25 for immediate restoration of presidential election by direct popular vote. The amendment is supported by practically all the opposition members and a considerable number of PDS dissidents, and of course by the psychological impact of the street manifestations staged by the opposition everywhere in Brazil, some with hundreds of thousands of participants and with threats that congressmen resisting the "nearly unanimous will of the people" to elect directly the successor of Figueiredo, would lose any chances of being reelected themselves for a new mandate. The Dante de Oliveira amendment therefore has many chances of approval at least in the Chamber while in the Senate the outlook is more favorable for the government. But in order to play safe, the government tries to persuade the PDS majority to stay away from the congressional voting, provoking lack of quorum which would delay new voting for several months.

But the government feels also that it must offer something more in order to meet the wishes -- suggested by the opposition -- of the masses of people to elect the president. In the last three or four days, Figueiredo and some of his closest advisors and friends seem to have mapped plans which can be condensed as follows: On March 31, anniversary of the revolution of 1964 which gave birth to the political regime now in its final phase of redemocratization, Figueiredo would send a message to the Congress announcing the completion of the political opening through direct popular election of the mayors of state capitals, or places deemed essential for military security, and health resorts. These mayors so far were named by the federal or state governments instead of being elected. Figueiredo would propose also restoration of all legislative powers still restrained or curtailed. The government would renounce the practice of governing by executive decree. Congress alone would be entitled to legislate on taxation and other financial and economic matters. But what about the presidential election? It would be made direct for the successor of Figueiredo's successor. The latter's mandate would be shortened from six to either five or four years and elections would be held either in 1988 or 1990.

Congressional voting on this project would take place prior to the voting on the Dante de Oliveira amendment. The presumption is that the opposition, or large parts of it, would not take the risk of voting against the president's liberal project while approval of the Dante de Oliveira project is doubtful. This strategic plan might not be watertight, though. The opposition well might approve the presidential project while adding a further article setting the date for direct presidential election for this year and not for 1988 or 1990. This is being pondered by several advisors and politicians who therefore would prefer to have the Dante de Oliveira placed first on the congressional agenda in order, as they hoped, to be rejected. In this case, the approval of the Figueiredo amendment would be safe, and changing the date for direct presidential election would not be possible under legislative rules.

Figueiredo's project -- not formally announced as far -- arouses objections also in various government ranks. Planning Minister Delfim Netto is said to have serious doubts on the convenience of giving Congress powers to change the economic and financial policy. He fears that this could jeopardize the entire anti-inflationary policy. And at least two candidates for Figueiredo's succession, Mario Andreazza and -- most emphatically -- Paulo Maluf, are strictly against any modification of the rules -- on succession and on legislative rights -- prior to the indirect election of Figueiredo's successor by the electoral college or at least prior to the nomination of the candidate by the PDS convention in September.

Meanwhile, another presidential candidate, Vice President Aureliano Chaves, who wants direct elections although belonging to the PDS, puzzled politicians last week with a statement made at a press conference in the United States that he believed he had chances of becoming president even though being defeated in the PDS convention, as is likely. He said enigmatically that he had "other possibilities" of reaching his aim. This declaration can be variously interpreted. If it had been made by a less cautious and responsible candidate than Aureliano, it might even be understood as a challenge or threat of revolt. But he probably wanted only to hint to the possibility of a PDS revolt against its leaders in his favor, in an alliance with the opposition. Opinion polls have named Aureliano as the most popular candidate in a direct election.

CTA HEAD: CONTROL OF NUCLEAR FUSION IN 5 YEARS

PY271623 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1649 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Brigadier Hugo Piva, director of the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA], has said that within 5 years Brazil will be in a position to control nuclear fusion to manufacture the hydrogen bomb, but will use it only to generate electricity. "It must be very clear that we do not want the hydrogen bomb," he stated," "but only controlled fusion to generate electricity."

The CTA, together with the University of Campinas and other institutions, has already developed a high-power laser which will allow them to control the thermonuclear fusion process in 5 years. The so-called "thermonuclear fusion" reaction comes from the fusion of light nuclei to create a heavy nucleus, and this process is used in the explosion of the hydrogen bomb. The fusion of hydrogen atoms is the process by which the sun and the stars generate heat.

Other important research by these institutions involves the fast thorium reactor to generate "clean" energy. Brazil has thorium reserves equivalent to the country's electricity potential, 300,000,000 kw, but the reserves can last 7,500 years, according to Brig Gen Piva.

The CTA director also referred to the agreements on space and military cooperation with the United States, adding that in 1987 Brazil will send into space a scientist to complete a project of the National Institute for Space Research.

NEW NAVY MINISTER ON PROGRAMS, POLITICS

PY231941 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 84 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Newly appointed Navy Minister Admiral Alfredo Karam yesterday said that he will continue to give priority, like former Navy Minister Maximiano, to the Antarctic Project and the plan for the construction of corvettes and submarines, adding that resources must be increased to boost the country's naval power.

Adm Karam dodged all political questions, arguing that "a military man should not confuse himself with a politician." In his opinion, former Minister Maximiano "did not confuse the two roles." Always insisting that "the military should stay out of politics," Adm Karam, when asked about the electoral process, affirmed that he personally does not think of direct or indirect elections, adding that "it is not proper for the Navy to have candidates, nor, by the way, any other service of the Armed Forces."

MILITARY SOURCE ON WEAPONS HELD IN ITALY

PY280030 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] Brasilia -- Military sources said yesterday that the arms shipment seized aboard the Israeli ship "Viking," allegedly purchased for the Brazilian Armed Forces, might just as well remain in Italy because the machine guns are of a type that is not found in Brazil and also because Brazil began building the type of bomb found in the two containers a long time ago. The 750-ton ship, which sails under a Panamanian flag, is being held at the Italian port of Messina under suspicion of transporting arms for the "Red Brigades." Police boarded the ship on Saturday, in the vicinity of Stromboli Island, and discovered machine guns, rifles, pistols, ammunition, and bombs.

Nenhame Rimon, co-owner of the ship, said in Haifa, Israel, that the "Viking" was legally transporting military equipment purchased by the Brazilian Armed Forces. Rimon, well known by the merchant marine, used to be a high-ranking official of Zim, an Israeli mixed-economy firm, until he founded his own company, Merico Shipping, which specializes in transporting coal and, more recently, arms. Rimon said that the arms shipment for Brazil was loaded in Turkey, and that transportation was arranged by a U.S. firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., which may be playing the role of middleman in the transaction. Directors of the MKI plant, an arms manufacturer owned by the Turkish Government, have confirmed that they sold the weapons found by the Italian police aboard the "Viking."

Italian policemen arrested the crew, four Filipinos, two Greeks, and one Indian, on charges of transporting bombs and weapons. Crew members said that after leaving the Turkish port of Darica, the ship was to make a stopover at Sicily and then proceed to Brazil. However, naval officials noted that the ship was not prepared for a trans-Atlantic trip. Israeli sources have voiced the suspicion that the ship might be heading for a Mideastern port.

In Brasilia, an Army officer said the IMBEL [Ordnance Industry] has been building the 105- and 106-mm bombs found aboard the ship for a long time. The first bomb is part of the Osorio tank equipment and the second one, a recoilless bomb, is not widely used by Brazilian artillery. The 7.65-mm caliber machine guns are not found in Brazil, where (?World War II) .30- and .50-caliber machine guns and Fal-type 9-mm caliber machine guns, built under a nationalized Belgian license, are used. The Armed Forces staff was also surprised by the seizure of the ship, because the ministry [no further identification] -- in charge of purchasing equipment for the three Armed Forces and the Air Force, for example, does not use 105- and 106-mm ammunition. The "Viking" was carrying 27 machine guns and some 3,500 bombs of both calibers.

ELECTRONIC WARFARE TRAINING CENTER CREATED

PY222030 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- President Joao Figueiredo signed a decree on 20 March creating the Electronic Warfare Training Center (CIGE), an organization that will in a short time allow the Brazilian Army to neutralize any missile guided by radar, to pick up and interfere with shortwave coded signals, and to use sophisticated electronic devices for defensive purposes.

To be headquartered in Brasilia, the CIGE will be run by the Army staff. Military sources believe that the center will be a major innovation from the national defense standpoint. The idea of the creation of the center was suggested by the Army staff itself, following the observations of Brazilian military men of the war between Argentina and Great Britain over the Falklands, when the British resorted to large-scale electronic warfare and easily picked up the messages exchanged by Argentine troops.

The decree establishes that Army Minister General Walter Pires will in due time take the necessary actions for the implementation of the decree, and that the funds needed for the creation of the CIGE will be provided by the budget allocations for the Army Ministry in 1985.

OFFICIAL MOURNING FOR GUINEAN PRESIDENT DECREED

PY280023 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] President Joao Figueiredo has decreed 3 days of official mourning for the death of Ahmed Sekou Toure, the president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

ARCHBISHOP CALLS FOR DIALOGUE ON EVE OF PROTEST

Seguel Supports Call

PY270009 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2141 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 26 Mar (EFE) -- Today labor union opposition leader Rodolfo Seguel said he supports the call for dialogue made by Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno. Seguel said: "We, the workers, cannot stay away from the call for dialogue between the government and the opposition made by the archbishop."

Seguel reiterated that the workers' representatives are willing to talk with officials but recalled that "so far the workers' demands have not been heard." Regarding a possible dialogue between the government and the opposition, Seguel said that "the goal to return to a democratic system of government as soon as possible should be clearly established."

Seguel Rejects Appeal for Calm

PY271322 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Seguel has rejected Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno's appeal for calm. The activist and the other leaders of the so-called National Workers Command [CNT] thus insisted on their decision to hold an ellegedly peaceful protest today. Seguel and the other CNT leaders made this statement at the end of a meeting with Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno at Fresno's residence located at 2843 Simon Bolivar Street.

The CNT leaders also ignored the government's willingness to begin a positive dialogue for the country, which has been repeatedly expressed by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa and Minister Secretary General Alfonso Marquez de la Plata. The CNT political activists have ignored the government's call and they insist on holding protests, which have only caused chaos and violence in the past.

Appeal Delays Note Delivery

PY262345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2159 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 26 Mar (AFP) -- Today the labor union leaders who are heading the national day of protest to be carried out in Chile on Tuesday decided not to send a memorandum to the Armed Forces high command in which they expressed their reasons for demanding the reestablishment of democracy. The delivery of the document remains pending for the time being, said Rodolfo Seguel, leader of the National Workers Command (CNT), upon confirming that the postponement of the delivery of the memorandum was agreed to after the dramatic call for peace made by Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno.

The call made by Msgr Fresno is much more important, therefore, we prefer to wait, said Seguel in reference to the archbishop's message calling for the government and the opposition to seek formulas of understanding before it is too late.

REPORTAGE ON 27 MAR NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST

Minister on Government Measures

PY271359 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonso Marquez de la Plata has stated that all necessary measures have been adopted to secure normal transportation services today, Tuesday, 27 March. He added that the emergency zone was established to counteract extremist actions more effectively.

The minister secretary general of government participated in an information meeting at La Moneda Palace presided over by the head of state. The heads of the Secretariat of the Presidency and of the National Defense Ministry were also in attendance. At the end of the meeting, Marquez de la Plata said that the country's situation was absolutely normal, adding that although some people are trying to promote disorder, the majority of the people are working under absolutely normal conditions. He said that the curfew measure was adopted because it will allow the security forces to protect the people more effectively.

269 Curfew Violators Arrested

PY271542 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Police sources reported that 269 persons have been arrested for violating the curfew. According to the police, 238 of these persons are men, 24 are women, and 7 are minors. All persons arrested were placed at the disposal of the local police courts. The citizenry is reminded that today the curfew will go into effect at 2030 and will be lifted at 0500 tomorrow.

Curfew Violators Released

PY271954 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Police sources have reported that a total of 269 persons were arrested in Santiago for violating the curfew. Concerning the detainees, the sources have reported that all of them were released after their place of residence was verified and instructions were given on what court they are to report to.

'Isolated Incidents' Occurring

PY271711 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Isolated incidents are taking place on various streets in downtown Santiago. Groups of political activists have been hurling stones at Carabineros, which forced the militarized police to act.

DINACOS Bulletin on Situation

PY271612 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Relay from La Moneda Palace by Graciela Contreras]

[Text] The National Social Communications Agency [DINACOS] has released a bulletin in order to keep the population fully informed, and it reiterates that it will keep the population permanently and fully informed about the true situation of what is happening throughout the country. The government again calls on all Chileans not to be intimidated by the agitators and instigators of violence, who only intend to disrupt peace and the normal development of the country's activities.

These points are contained in a press release that DINACOS handed out a few moments ago. The press release explains the following to public opinion:

It is already public knowledge that the country has been in a state of emergency as of Saturday, 24 March, to maintain peace, [word indistinct] and public order. A curfew has been in force in the metropolitan area and San Antonio Province as of the night of 26 March; the night passed without any incidents.

3. [as heard] The press release that DINACOS released a few moments ago states that it is necessary that an explanation be given to the population that during that [words indistinct] with high powered explosives at km 16 of the southern railway line. This has caused a suspension in train service. Railway crews are working to repair the damage and the running of trains will be normalized during the next few hours.

4. There was a reduction in the circulation of public transport during the early hours of this morning, but this situation has not affected people going to work. Public transport was slowly normalized during the morning.

5. The press release handed out by DINACOS indicates that the first shift of CODELCO [Copper Corporation] [words indistinct] worked normally, as was to be expected. This has also been noted in all public and private enterprises.

6. A state of calm and the normal development of activities can be observed in the country's regions. No incident has disrupted the peace of the population.

7. DINACOS has released this bulletin so that the population will be fully informed and it reiterates that it will keep the population permanently informed about the true situation of what is happening throughout the country.

The government again calls on all Chileans not to be intimidated by the agitators and instigators of violence, who only intend to disrupt the normal development of the country's activities.

This is the content of the first press release handed out by DINACOS. This is all from La Moneda Palace.

Violent Incidents in Santiago

PY271825 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) — Violent incidents between students and the police were still going on today as of 1745 GMT [as received] between students and police in downtown Santiago and in some university colleges. These are the first demonstrations within the framework of the peaceful and popular protest against General Augusto Pinochet's government.

High school and university students, after holding meetings in their schools, took to the streets to express their repudiation of the military regime, which has been in power for 10 and 1/2 years. In the downtown Ahumada mall, on Huerfanos Street, the law college of the University of Chile, and Vicuna Machenna Avenue were the areas of confrontation. First reports indicate that 50 persons have been arrested, according to an AFP journalist.

While the special forces of the Carabineros, the militarized police, are operating in the streets heavily armed and with dogs and water cannon, helicopters are overflying the places where the incidents are taking place. These are the first incidents of the day of protest, which includes a curfew that will begin tonight at 2030 (0030 GMT).

Police Put Down Disturbances

PY271910 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Subversives have tried to wreak havoc throughout Santiago. The attempts by the agitators, however, were quickly put down by the police.

In downtown Santiago, disturbances were put down and some persons were detained. The library of the University of Chile, which is located at the intersection of Grecia Avenue and Macul Street, was again the focus of unrest. A group of some 100 unidentified individuals, all of whom were alien to the university, made their way into this library. Throughout the morning and under close police surveillance they just chanted well known Marxist slogans. The traffic on Grecia Avenue toward the east was normal. This was also the case at the intersection of Vicuna Mackenna and (Garrazabal) Avenues, where a small group of agitators were trying to cause disturbances.

After a ride throughout Santiago overall activities were observed to be normal.

Barricade Attempts Disrupted

PY272124 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Ever-present Marxist agitators have tried to set up barricades throughout greater Santiago. Actions like these were seen at bus stop No 16 on Grecia Avenue and on Americo Vespucio Avenue. However, as soon as the police showed up the agitators stopped setting up the barricades.

French Priest Beaten, Arrested

PY272035 Paris AFP in Spanish 1755 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Church sources have reported that Pierre Dubois, a French priest, was arrested and beaten up today by the Chilean police in the La Victoria suburb where he serves as parish priest. Dubois was beaten and arrested when he tried to prevent a bus packed with Carabineros from entering the suburb which is inhabited by 50,000 low-income residents.

Diplomatic officials from the French Embassy showed up at La Victoria to request that Dubois, who is living in La Victoria, a suburb located in southern Santiago, be set free.

French Priest Released

PY280144 Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) -- French Priest Pierre Dubois, who was detained and beaten today by Carabineros militarized police, was released as a result of the negotiations carried out by the French Embassy and the Chilean Catholic Church.

Injuries, Arrests Reported

PY271840 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1829 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar (EFE) -- At least two persons have been injured during the confrontations that started today at noon in the pedestrian shopping streets of downtown Santiago. Groups of demonstrators, operating in a "hit and run" ("saltos") fashion, shouted slogans against the government. They were neutralized by Carabineros, who used antiriot equipment and water cannons. Carabineros made numerous arrests. The number has not been determined, but according to the sources in political groups, not more than 30 persons have been arrested.

The lack of public transport during the first few hours of the protest against General Augusto Pinochet's military regime was the most noticeable factor. This prevented many children from getting to their schools and many workers getting to their jobs.

Interior Minister on Situation

PY272213 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2120 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] We have a direct report from Graciela Contreras at La Moneda Palace.

[Begin relay] Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa said here, a few minutes ago during a press conference in his office in La Moneda Palace, that this type of demonstration and protest are not any good for the economy of the country, that, on the contrary, these actions are quite harmful. During the press conference he explained the situation in the country so far.

[Begin recording] [Jarpa] So far the situation is relatively calm. Only one person in Concepcion has been seriously wounded, and another person was hurt on Grecia Avenue. I have not received any details on these incidents. I hope these will be the only incidents today. Up to this time, businesses have been operating; some of them are already closing for the evening.

Most of the people have been going to work as usual. School attendance was about 60 percent, but less in some areas. This type of protest is causing great damage to the national economy. We hope that no more violent incidents other than the ones which have already taken place will occur. About 100 people have been arrested in different street incidents. They will be released after their residences have been checked. This is all I have to say.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] incident in Concepcion?

[Jarpa] It has not been confirmed.

[Question indistinct]

[Jarpa] I have been told that a person died while undergoing surgery, but this has not been confirmed to me yet. [end recording]

Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa also called Seguel's statement cynical. Sequel said that he was responsible only for the events of this day of protest until 2100 tonight. Jarpa said that this statement cannot be justified to the people. The people cannot (?support) him. [end relay]

Student Killed in Concepcion

PY271934 Paris AFP in Spanish 1923 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Concepcion, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Today a student was killed during violent confrontations between demonstrators and police in this southern Chile city during the national day of protest against the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet. Doctors reported that student Caupolican Inostroza Lamas was hit by shots from the Carabineros militarized police. The student died in the Concepcion Regional Hospital, 525 km south of Santiago.

Confrontations between demonstrators and government security forces also took place in downtown Santiago and at various university school buildings.

Police Deny Causing Death

PY272123 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2030 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] We have a last minute report from journalist (Mario Reyes) in our mobile unit.

[Begin relay] Serious disturbances have taken place in the La Alameda area near San Antonio and the police had to throw tear gas to break up the group of individuals and demonstrators who were shouting political slogans. Carabineros are now going from San Antonio to the southern area of La Alameda to break up more demonstrations. One area of La Alameda is now practically clear so that people can freely walk about in this area. As we said, Carabineros had to throw tear gas in area of La Alameda near San Antonio to break up a group of demonstrators. [end relay]

We have another report pointing out that the Carabineros from Concepcion emphatically deny any responsibility in the death of a university student. The Concepcion prefect said that the Carabineros have not fireed any shots, therefore investigations are being carried out to find out where the shots came from.

Student Wounded in Santiago

PY272038 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2004 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] In addition to the regrettable death of a university student in Concepcion we must report that student Roberto Irarrazabel from Santiago is undergoing surgery in the Neurosurgery Hospital after being wounded in the forehead during incidents involving about 50 students and police forces near the school on (Mapu) Street. This is the result of the so-called "peaceful protest," and the first tragic incidents known so far.

Carabinero Seriously Wounded

PY272220 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2214 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] This is a last minute report. A Carabinero was seriously wounded a few minutes ago during an incident in the Carrascal area as a result of the so-called peaceful protest. He is now being taken by helicopter to the Carabineros Hospital.

More Incidents, Arrests

PY280124 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] A Carabineros officer and a corporal of the same police force were wounded during incidents that took place in different parts of the city tonight. The disburbances were staged by antisocials and extremists who stoned vehicles and set tires on fire in the streets while attacking Carabineros personnel and throwing chains at electric powerlines, causing blackouts in a part of Maipu. The office of the chief of the emergency area of the fifth region has reported that 13 persons who participated in violent incidents were arrested in Valparaiso, where university students and other persons staged demonstrations under the direction of Marxist activists.

Bomb Explosions Hit Santiago

PY280231 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0217 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Tonight terrorists exploded about 10 bombs in the southern part of Santiago. One of the bombs knocked down a transformer on Central Avenue at the corner of Serena Street in the San Miguel community. Another bomb affected the electrical installation at the 29th km of the Pan Americana Sur highway. Large neighborhoods in the southern part of Santiago are without electricity because of the terrorist actions.

3 Killed During Protest

PY280423 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0234 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (EFE) -- The deaths of Antonio Fuenzalida Medel and Roberto Irarrazabal Navarro, a student, have brought to three the total death toll in the Chilean national protest against the Chilean military regime of General Pinochet.

The death of Antonio Fuenzalida was confirmed by the Felix Bulnes Hospital where he was hospitalized after being shot while standing in the doorway of his house, according to Radio Chilena. Roberto Irarrazabal, a university student, was shot in the head and was operated on at the Neurosurgery Hospital, which reported his death.

Caupolican Inostroza, a university student, died earlier in the afternoon in Concepcion, 500 km south of Santiago, after being shot in the chest with a rubber bullet, fired by policemen, which penetrated his lung.

More Deaths Reported

PY281125 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0402 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Radio Chilena, of the Santiago Archbishop's Office, has reported that Juan Cristian Zamora Melendez died in Valparaiso from injuries he sustained from shots that were fired by unidentified persons in a car. The radio reported that Victor Manuel Quesada was killed in Santiago. However, the circumstances surrounding his death are not known.

Pinochet Overflies Santiago

PY280200 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Relay by Graciela Contreras from headquarters of 10th FACH group]

[Text] A short time ago the Puma helicopter in which the president of the republic made an inspection visit around greater Santiago landed. The president boarded the helicopter a little after 2000 at the headquarters of the 10th FACH [Chilean Air Force] group, located in (Cerrillo). Among other areas, the president observed La Cisterna, Parque de la Florida, San Miguel, Nunoa, La Reina, Conchali, and Pudahuel. After making a very low altitude flight over the city, the president talked to reporters a short while ago. This is what he told Radio Nacional de Chile:

[Recorded passage indistinct]

This is the conversation that the president of the republic held a few minutes ago with a few reporters who accompanied him at 2010 on a flight over greater Santiago aboard the Puma helicopter. They made an evaluation of the present situation, which the president labeled calm although some places were observed where tires had been set on fire and barricades erected. A few minutes before 2100, the president said that there is still more to come.

Curfew Extended in Santiago

PY280201 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Graciela Contreras has a report from La Moneda Palace.

[Begin relay] The chief of the emergency zone, General Rene Vidal, has reported that the curfew has been extended for one more day in the metropolitan area and San Antonio Province. The curfew will be enforced again tomorrow in this capital from 2200 to 0500 the following day. During a conversation with the press, Gen Rene Vidal said that tranquillity and order prevailed all day in the metropolitan area and Santiago Province. He added: I would say that there is tranquillity in this area. I believe that this is the great victory of the large majority who want order and tranquillity. The police and security forces are the ones who have guaranteed the order and tranquillity that we all want. [end relay]

CNT Leader on Responsibility

PY271242 Santiago Radio Mineria in Spanish 1155 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station interview with Hernol Flores, leader of the National Workers Command -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] Hernol, who is responsible for this protest?

[Flores] The National Workers Command is responsible, from the grass roots up, for this protest. During a meeting on 3 February 1984 that included 15 representatives of national confederations, federations, and associations, an agreement was reached to resume these peaceful protests to call to the attention of the authorities to the problems affecting us. This was the agreement, so all the CNT had to do was to implement this mandate of its grass roots.

[Reporter] Who provoked this protest, the workers or the politicians?

[Flores] This protest was provoked by the government -- the government with its antiworker policy, its dehumanized, cruel, unjust, and unilateral economic policy. It is obviously the government that has provoked the protests.

CNT: Protest Successful

PY280130 Paris AFP in Spanish 2342 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Today's national day of protest against the Chilean military regime called by the National Workers Command was a complete success, the CNT executive board said. According to the evaluation made by the CNT, there is general discontent throughout the country, and Santiago was practically paralyzed when the majority of the transportation unions and businessmen joined the protest.

The people are exhausted from the social and economic crisis affecting the country. They expressed their repudiation by showing that they can act peacefully if there is no repression, said Manuel Bustos, textile union leader of the CNT.

The CNT is holding the government responsible for the death of a student during incidents in Concepcion, in the southern part of the country, and also for the people wounded in clashes with the police in Santiago.

The CNT added: We make a call to the police not to enter the poor neighborhoods tonight, and not to provoke their inhabitants at the conclusion of the national day of protest.

According to the CNT instructions, the day of protest must end at 2000 local time [0000 GMT] tonight with a house concert of the banging of pots and pans, the blowing of horns, and playing of music.

Today workers held unprecedented assemblies in small and large factories to debate the holding of a national strike to demand the end of the regime, said CNT President Rodolfo Seguel.

Jarpa Scores Organizers

PY280437 Santiago Television Service in Spanish 2345 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Press conference held by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa during the "60 Minutes" program -- recorded]

[Text] Any incidents resulting from the day of protest are the responsibility of those who called it, said the interior minister. He added that there is tranquillity in the country.

[Begin recording] [Jarpa] It seems to be a cynical position. [Words indistinct] decided to bring a time bomb [words indistinct] prepared to explode later. I believe that this has no justification. They called for a protest through speeches, tours, publications, agreements, and active participation. They created an environment for the protest but are now saying that the results of this environment which they created is not their responsibility. The public cannot accept such a simple explanation, an explanation which can only be created by a cynical and imbecilic mentality of some people who believe that they can fool the public with such an explanation.

[Question indistinct]

[Jarpa] I hope not. They do all they can. They call for a peaceful demonstration, and yet they try to unleash violence by all means. The government, which does not call for any protest, confrontation, or violence, tries in every way possible to spare the Chilean people from any unfortunate situation. We do not want violence, or confrontation. We want social peace and a solution to the problems by asking for everyone's goodwill and cooperation.

[Unidentified reporter] In former days of protest, there have been people killed and considerable violence. Will the government make those who called for the protest responsible for whatever happened today once the results are known?

[Jarpa] I hope that the situation does not turn out to be as you believe. But should the situation turn out to be like that, the responsibility will be on those who promote these things, because if they were not organized, there wouldn't be violence or deaths as you point out.

[Reporter] Would there be judicial actions filed if the facts justify them?

[Jarpa] Naturally, if there are implications, actions, or attitudes which are punishable under the law, we will invoke the law.

[Reporter] Minister, Mr Valdes said that the fierceness of the protest depended on the measures...

[Jarpa interrupting] Look, do not pay more attention to what Valdes says, because that demonstrates that we are not talking seriously. They call for the protest, organize a whole series of violent actions, and it then turns out that it all depends on the government. This is not serious talk. So I prefer not to take note of that.

[Reporter] Mr Valdes also made the government directly responsible for the attack against Mr Lavanderos.

[Jarpa] If Mr Valdes has any evidence, and if he is a man to be taken seriously, he should turn the evidence over to the court, without making statements. I believe that if he does not turn over any evidence, he is just making a slanderous charge. The government rejects this.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the country developed its activities normally during the day?

[Jarpa] Normally in the sense that there was school attendance and activities, but no, obviously, there was less. As I have said, this is costly for the country's economy, the heads of households, the working people. But as far as public order is concerned, I believe the situation has been quite normal.

[Reporter] In the Cabinet, mention has been made of the draft law referring to abuses of publicity which was submitted to the government junta.

[Jarpa] Let's understand one another well. This is not to restrict freedom of the press. It permits journalists to do their job, but it is aimed at curbing some obvious abuses that have been committed, and at stopping lies that have no basis, such as the one published by a magazine saying that there were 24,000 soldiers on the streets today. These are gross lies that do not stand the most superficial analysis; lies to create a climate of violence and fear among the people. These are abuses that mar freedom of the press. We will try to protect freedom of the press by curbing those abuses which are not good for anybody, not for the journalists nor for the public. [end recording]

DEL VALLE AGREES WITH U.S., REJECTS INTERFERENCE

PY280121 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has stated that there is a similarity in the policy of Chile and that of the U.S. Department of State. In one of its statements, the U.S. Department of State encouraged dialogue among Chileans and expressed hope for the attainment of a peaceful agreement. In this regard, Minister Del Valle said that we find some agreement with what the State Department has expressed, adding that the Chilean Government has always been open to dialogue, and has demonstrated this attitude time and time again. Moreover, the government is making progress toward full democracy as it is set forth in the Chilean Constitution itself.

Minister Del Valle then said that if the Department of State wants changes to be introduced in the timetable or wants conditions to be inserted into the Constitution, this would be interference in the country's internal affairs which will not be accepted for any reason, not from the United States or any other country.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO HAITI DIES Rear Admiral Lautaro Sazo Lizana, Chilean ambassador to Haiti, today died at Valparaiso Naval Hospital where he had been receiving medical treatment for a severe illness ever since he arrived in the country. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 84 PY]

MEXICAN PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON C.A. SITUATION

PA272256 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Report by Alcides Antonio Jaurigue Bautista and Sofia del Pilar Barrera]

[Text] Good evening. Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has made important statements on the Central American situation here at the Tequendama Hotel where what was originally just a meeting with the news media soon became a news conference.

President De la Madrid placed emphasis on the situations in El Salvador, Honduras, and the other Central American countries. He said:

[Begin De la Madrid recording] I have great confidence in the political will of the Central American countries. They must be the ones most interested in peace and in the defense of their sovereignty. This is a fundamental necessity for a peaceful solution.

The Contadora Group countries, as President Betancur has said, are not pacifiers but pacifists. We are providing a framework of negotiations, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the Central American people and governments.

The Contadora Group, of course, [words indistinct] intervention in the internal affairs of the Central American area. This is why Contadora has limited itself to putting the Central American governments in touch, but Contadora respects the sovereignty of each of the Central American nations. This respect, which we have demonstrated, is what we want to see between powers from this continent and from other continents. [end recording]

President De la Madrid said that a general war has been avoided in Central America thanks to the efforts of the Contadora Group. Now we go to the Narino Palace to interview Colombian President Belisario Betancur. Here is Pilar Barrera.

[Barrera] Yes, Alcides. President Miguel de la Madrid arrived a few minutes ago at the Narino Palace for his first meeting with President Betancur. It will be a bilateral work session at which they will discuss several topics among them: the Contadora Group, and the Central American situation. They will also discuss trade and cultural exchange between the two countries.

President De la Madrid arrived accompanied by Bernardo Sepulveda, Mexican secretary of foreign relations; Secretary of Education Jesus Reyes Heroles; Hector Hernandez Cervantes, secretary of commerce and industrial development; and Miguel Gonzalez, president of the senate commission. These have been the highlights at the Narino Palace at 1900. Later, President Betancur will host a banquet for President De la Madrid, at approximately 2030, where some speeches will be delivered and decorations will be awarded.

Meets With Betancur, Leaders

FL272216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1923 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, Colombia, 27 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Colombian labor leaders, industrialists, and politicians have agreed here on the need to intensify and strengthen existing agreements between Mexico and Colombia, especially in the areas of basic products and industrial, educational, and cultural technology.

Accompanied by Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the Mexican president together with this country's leaders and former Presidents Carlos Llreas Restrepo and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, studied actions that Mexicans and Colombians might take to overcome the economic difficulties facing both countries.

The problem of the coffee market was also emphasized. Surpluses seriously threaten trade in this product.

Regarding the industrial sector, the importance for Mexico and Colombia to study exchange formulas to improve relations in this field was pointed out.

The need was expressed for closer relations through improved communications so that it would be known in depth what the governments are doing to help their citizens in the fields of culture, education, and communication.

With a better understanding of each other, there would be greater likelihood that the Mexican and Colombian economies could cooperate to achieve faster development.

PAZ DEL RIO MINES STRIKE SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT

PA271839 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Representatives of the workers and management of the Paz del Rio Mines are today preparing at the Labor Ministry to formalize an agreement ending the 26-day strike. A general assembly of workers' delegates obtained a slight majority in favor of lifting the work stoppage after accepting the formula submitted to the workers for consideration by Minister Guillermo Gonzalez Mosquera. Through the formula, wages will be readjusted 21 percent this year and 20 percent next year.

Once the agreement is signed, the strike committee will order the renewal of activities at the installations, which are expected to return to normal next week following cleanup operations and technical reviews to determine the existence of gas seepage or landslides.

BRIEFS

NEW INRAVISION DIRECTOR -- Journalist Fernando Barrero Chavez has been appointed the new director of INRAVISION [National Radio and Television Institute], replacing Fernando Calero Aparicio. Barrero is the former secretary of the Information and Press Office of the Presidency. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 1-A PA]

REPORTAGE ON ABC COLOR CLOSURE, REACTION

Publisher Under House Arrest

PY262327 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] Contrary to what is expected, the publisher of the newspaper ABC COLOR himself informed ULTIMA HORA this morning that he has been placed under house arrest, and that two police officials to whom he talked were unable to give a consistent explanation for this measure. He does not know how long this measure will remain in force either. Speaking over the phone this morning, ABC COLOR publisher Aldo Zuccolillo said: "I have been placed under house arrest for an indefinite period; they did not tell me for how long, perhaps until they feel like lifting the measure. A police official from the (Mburucuya) neighborhood police station came last night and told me that I was virtually under detention and that I may not leave my house."

He explained the stringent police action by saying: "The police are here to prevent me from leaving. They have surrounded me. Likewise, they note the name and identification card number of anyone coming to my house. Police Inspector Cantero has told me that I am under house arrest, although he could not explain the legal reason why the measure was taken. I wonder whether this house arrest ordered by the interior minister is in line with the statement that the police chief made to the president of the Supreme Court that I could not be produced in court because I was free. The police chief has then lied to the Supreme Court president." Concerning the court injunction he said: "Whether the interior minister can suspend the printing and circulation of a newspaper is an issue that will be cleared up in the courts; but we filed a court injunction because he can by no means prevent us from entering the building. This is a violation of the right of ownership and of specific guarantees set forth by the Constitution. There are many things to be done at the newspaper building, for example collecting bills, paying salaries, and so forth. The interior minister is marring the government's image."

ABC COLOR Building Closed

PY231652 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1615 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] This morning we talked to Geronimo Angulo Gaston on the closure and cordoning off of ABC COLOR. The lawyer said that the measure is totally unconstitutional, and that early Monday morning an injunction will be submitted in court to allow entrance to the newspaper building, because, he said, inside are important documents which may disappear.

Police Raid ABC Building

PY241520 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1450 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The building of the daily ABC COLOR was raided this morning. The following officials participated in the operation: Criminal Judge Sixto Milciades Rivas Soler; Police Commissioner General Alberto Cantero, chief of the political section of the Investigative Department of the Asuncion Police; and police personnel.

The raid is similar to the one that took place yesterday at ABC publisher Aldo Zuccolillo's home, according to what has been reported to us. Zuccolillo was present this morning during the raid of his newspaper, along with the administrator, Angel Arias, and Dr Geronimo Maria Angulo Gaston, legal adviser to the newspaper, which has been closed for an indefinite period.

Montanaro Said Behind Closing

PY241625 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1055 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Asuncion, 24 Mar (EFE) — In an exclusive statement to EFE, Aldo Zuccolillo, publisher of the independent morning newspaper ABC COLOR, has said: "The closure of ABC COLOR was an irrational measure and a serious mistake made by the government."

Yesterday Zuccolillo left police headquarters where he had been held since Friday, 16 March, and is now under house arrest.

No sooner had Zuccolillo returned home than 20 policemen arrived there with a search warrant and carefully searched his house looking for subversive material.

"They checked even cooking recipes but they could not find anything because there was nothing in the house," Zuccolillo said. He noted, however, that the policemen treated him correctly during his detention and acted properly in searching the house.

Zuccolillo blamed both his detention and the closure of his newspaper on Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro. "This was an error made by a mediocre minister," he said.

"With these measures the minister has put both the government and even the Armed Forces, which he always mentions in his speeches, in a difficult position," Zuccolillo said.

"With the closure of ABC he has done great damage to the country because President Stroessner himself was able to learn what was really going on in the country through our newspaper," Zuccolillo said.

Commenting on the official newspaper PATRIA, which lauded the closure of ABC COLOR, Zuccolillo said that President Stroessner could not possibly learn about the real situation by reading PATRIA because this newspaper only publishes reports praising the government.

Zuccolillo noted that during his detention he had not been pressured to change the journalistic line followed by his newspaper and voiced concern for his workers.

Asked whether the public statement released by the U.S. Embassy could influence the reopening of ABC COLOR, Zuccolillo said: "Uncle Sam carries a lot of weight everywhere."

Without elaborating on the possible weight the U.S. Embassy might carry in this case, Zuccolillo referred to the downfall of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua.

"Somoza told me personally that he had fallen because the United States had stopped arms shipments from Israel [to Nicaragua]," Zuccolillo told EFE.

Commenting on the prospects for reopening his newspaper, he said he had "a gloomy outlook" and reiterated his concern on the situation of 350 direct-hire personnel and 7,000 persons who, he estimates, are making their living through the newspaper.

ABC COLOR Publisher Comments

PY242005 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 9

[Excerpt] During an interview, Aldo Zuccolillo referred to his arrest, the closing of his newspaper, and the search of his residence. In a short recount of the situation in which he finds himself, the ABC publisher tried to come up with a reason for it all, but could find none. He then said: "What has happened over the last 10 days would be funny if it were not tragic. It all began with an accusation that I am a smart aleck. He (Montanaro) had me arrested for being a smart aleck, but the next day he told TV channel 13 that I was arrested under Article 79 [of the Constitution]. Five days later the paper was closed."

Still commenting on the events, Zuccolillo said: "The attitude of the interior minister seems incoherent to me. How else can I explain that from an initial accusation that someone is a smart aleck, the interior minister of a democratic country can decide to close a newspaper. We are greatly surprised.

"During the 7 days I spent in the police jail I was treated correctly. Other than keeping me confined to a bedroom and worried about not being able to work at the newspaper, the police treatment was correct but harsh."

Regarding the newspaper's forced inactivity, Zuccolillo said: "The reason ABC was suspended is its denunciation of pervasive corruption, its revelation of frauds, its investigation into irregularities."

He then referred to the denial of freedom to some politicians whose opinions some members of the government do not want to see published. The government assumes responsibility for this denial, but it entails, he said, "an important commitment for me because Minister Montanaro has not exhibited any evidence or given any reason for ABC suspension." [as published]

Opposition Reaction

PY232055 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpt] When Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin [head of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party] learned about the government decision to close down the newspaper, [ABC COLOR], he said that "it was a day of mourning for Paraguayan journalism."

Benitez Florentin added that "I am highly indignant over the closure of a newspaper that performs such a great service for the benefit of the public. This measure reveals that our country and our leaders are not capable of coexisting with and admitting the possible existence of an independent organ."

Enzo Alejandro Doldan [leader of the Radical Liberal Party, PLR] stated that "what has happened to ABC represents an unfortunate event in the Paraguayan peoples' struggle to enjoy democratic liberties and uncovers the government's attempt to appear as a democratic regime when the truth is that it is only a regime that does not conceal its purpose of intimidating the democratic forces."

Enzo Doldan stated "that the PLR will have to analyze the possibility of reviewing its own policy regarding this alleged democratic process."

Joaquin A. Burgos, head of one of the liberal factions, also voiced his protest over the closing of the newspaper by stating that "the new measure taken by the Interior Ministry shocked us and caused our deep indignation since the indefinite closing of an independent newspaper represents a serious setback in the democratic process of the country, and even threatens what had been viewed as an incipient development."

Euclides Acevedo, head of the Febrerista Party, noted that what happened yesterday clearly reveals that the regime is not prepared for democratic coexistence. The closing of ABC COLOR represents the culmination of a thorough harassment campaign against the media that is and should be one of the main elements for a transition." [quotation marks as published].

Acevedo noted that "the new repressive escapade shatters the incipient political opening due to the power holders' incapacity to accept criticisms."

"The progressive sectors of the country must defend with cloak and dagger techniques what they have achieved by adopting firm legal and public stands through constant mobilization."

In his brief statement Romulo T. Perina, president of the Christian Democratic Party, stated that "this situation must be carefully analyzed as it speaks of our true political situation."

"I am deeply surprised."

Other Parties Comment

PY250130 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] The National Accord expresses strong condemnation in a note referring to the indefinite closing of ABC COLOR.

"The measure violates definite constitutional provisions and it stands in contrast to the work of all those who are in favor of national democratization," the document of the coalition of parties says initially.

"This is a deplorable regression in the effort to overcome an outmoded style of government and to replace it with one that is characteristic of civilized nations," reads the document of the opposition front.

Further on it says: "We publicly express our solidarity with ABC publisher Aldo Zuccolillo, who was arbitrarily arrested, the newspaper's journalistic and administrative staff, the shop workers, and humble newsboys, who have lost gainful jobs, with serious consequences for their families."

"As we firmly reject the measure," the note stresses, "we remain determined to continue struggling to turn the fatherland into an exemplary democracy. We say it without hatred or fear, but with the certainty of expressing the wish of all the Paraguayan people who want social peace based on justice, freedom, and coexistence under the law."

For its part, the Febrerista Party issued a manifesto expressing its "repudiation of this act of injustice that stands out among many other acts of injustice daily practiced by the regime, because it is a serious aggression against the press which is one of the most effective democratic tools."

"The Febreristas are united with ABC COLOR, the hundreds of shop and office workers who thanks to the superior government are now suspended in their jobs; and fundamentally with the Paraguayan people, who thus have clear evidence of the denial of the right of information by the dictatorship, with the vile intention of dominating their way of thinking."

"At the same time, we point out that arbitrary measures based on repressive authoritarianism, far from being signs of strength, are signs of the government's political weakness."

PATRIA Supports Closing

PY231425 Ascuncion PATRIA in Spanish 23 Mar 84 p 5

[Editorial: "In Defense of Peace"]

[Text] PATRIA, the official newspaper of a democratic party, has always maintained that freedom of the press is one of the basic components of a republican system of government. But at the same time we could foresee a growing climate of potential violence being ushered in by the newspaper ABC COLOR, a climate ressembling the one which preceded the 1947 revolution when a blind and violent questioning prevailed. The result was the bloody civil war of that year.

But we are now in 1984, completing 3 decades of work for peace, development, and popular well being. And the Colorado government will not be dragged into a new fratricidal war in which nobody will win, and the country would lose.

"Democratizing" intentions cannot be used as the shield and spear to unleash violence. Just as it should serve democracy, freedom of the press should serve peace. There was nothing in the newspaper ABC COLOR to indicate that it was trying to guide the public along the roads of law and order. Even its vaunted proclamation for "national coexistence" was nothing but a plea for impunity for those who have been sidelined or are in an illegal situation or have no political standing.

Its "independent" label is a gross misrepresentation, because its position was not that of opposition, which would be normal, but that of subversion, which is not normal.

Not even at the time of their most relentless opposition did newspapers such as EL HERALDO, COMUNIDAD, ADELANTE, EL ENANO, EL RADICAL, LA LIBERTAD, and EL LIBERAL reach the explosive temperature that ABC COLOR did in its deplorable task of countering the climate of peace and quiet passion with a climate of hostility capable of first flaring up in disorder, and then violence. There was no freedom of the press in ABC COLOR, but only the pathologic messianism of an entrepreneur-turned-journalist who ended up being manipulated by the radical opposition, as we would like to believe.

The opposition does no more than oppose the government. However, when the opposition incites the destruction of the government, it is subversion, which has in this case been promoted through a corrosive campaign that did not stop at being insolent, irreverent, and disrespectful toward the men who govern the country through a mandate of the popular will.

We know very well that there will be an avalanche of orchestrated protest against the government's decision to close ABC COLOR, including the protest of the SIP [Inter-American Press Society] which is run by entrepreneurs and which claims to represent 1,200 newspapers. To this we oppose the will of 1 million Colorados and the interests of 3 million Paraguayans.

Moreover, the Colorado government of President Stroessner is quite accustomed to exercise national sovereignty in accordance with our laws, without knuckling under to pressures no matter where they come from. We are more interested in the judgment of our million-strong membership and the public who love peace because they have learned to enjoy its benefits.

ULTIMA HORA Condemns Closing

PY231840 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 10

[From the "Echo of the News" column]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered the closure of the daily ABC COLOR, thus confirming a rumor circulating yesterday. The government declaration which explains the reasons which led the government to make this decision is included in this issue.

Primarily, we must note that the closure of a newspaper violates one of the most important democratic principles: that of freedom of the press which, moreover, is guaranteed by the Constitution. It may be that the government can justify this decision by giving certain reasons, perhaps even subjective ones, but this is not enough. In view of our civic development, our republican tradition, and the coexistence of all citizens, there is no reason for such an arbitrary decision, which shows the unsound judgment and lack of prudence of the authorities that enforce such measures.

Terms Closure Deplorable

PY241358 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Mar 84 p 10

[Editorial: "The Closure of ABC"]

[Text] The closure of a newspaper is always a deplorable event for any republic, for a very simple reason: The newspaper is a guiding voice and a channel for expressing opinions in any society which thinks, works, and develops through free institutions and in keeping with the laws which control its development. However, sometimes illegal situations which go against the spirit and the letter of the constitution are created by the government. The government decision against our colleague ABC COLOR has no juridical basis; Resolution 227 states in its introduction that the newspaper "has systematically and deliberately violated the provisions of the Constitution in a permanent effort to subvert public order..." that while criticism "of the law is permitted, nobody can disobey its provisions," and "the daily publication of seditious opinions in its editorials or as a mouthpiece of unrecognized political groups lacking legal or institutional support..." thus "promote a state of social confusion, unrest, and alarm..." These are the arguments which are brought forth to justify the decision of the ministry.

However, one wonders if these reasons are valid for closing down the abovementioned morning daily. No one could argue against the fact that for a long time ABC COLOR has been publishing political opinions and criticisms by opposition party leaders, and has been maintaining an editorial policy of criticizing illegal actions of public officials, incorrectly applied laws, outrages against public interests, lack of ethical behavior and efficiency of state agencies, and any government actions which became liable to being criticized because of their ineffectiveness or neglect. However, should a newspaper be closed down in a democratic society just because it voiced an opinion? Does it become liable to such harsh punishment because it is felt that it preaches disobedience and "eulogizes crime" by voicing opinions? Nothing could be more groundless and weak than this argument to justify a drastic measure of this kind.

Furthermore, we should point out that this government yardstick is used for the independent media but not applied to other news media or political radio programs which attack opposition parties in a manner hardly free from offense. However, it should not be felt that the so-called offenses and abundant criticism capable of confusing the people is only such when published by independent news media and not when they are disseminated by progovernment news media or voiced by state officials. It is only logical that in politics there should be verbal clashes, polemics, and criticisms that employ severe and even aggressive language. However, this could hardly lead to the conclusion that a newspaper which publishes opinions contrary to the interests of the government should be shut down to preseve moral health and public tranquillity. Furthermore, if the government feels that there is "subversive preaching," "offenses against officials," or other possible crimes, it should resort to the courts to put an end to such outrages in accordance with the law. This road is always open and can be used without going against the Constitution.

In sum, we do not feel that the arguments brought forth by the authorities are either convincing or consistent with the harshness of the measure ordered by the ministry. Furthermore, they go against other principles and considerations drawn from our Constitution and political and historical precedents which are applicable to issues of this nature in the development of national civic affairs.

ULTIMA HORA, U.S. Policy Scored

PY261806 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 9

[Gil Gonzalez article: "The Historical Shortsightedness of the United States"]

[Excerpts] If, on the one hand, the decisive manner in which the constitutional government of the nation has been dealing with the matter involving the punishment of a news media which was engaged in arousing aggressive feelings among the populace is soothing, on the other hand the affair has an aspect which sparks some concern. It has to do with the reaction abroad and also with the mistaken interpretation of the event and the lack of a broad and objective viewpoint among other news media, as is the case of the afternoon daily, ULTIMA HORA.

From the very beginning, ULTIMA HORA, which perhaps in its pursuit of a better economic status has been drawing close to the course taken by ABC COLOR, has been lambasting the government measure without carefully analyzing the reasons behind it. It arbitrarily chose to make the principle of freedom of the press absolute, although we all know that this could never truly apply to a society which wants to live in order.

The freedom of press and opinion, guaranteed by the national Constitution, is controlled by clearly specified legal and ethical rules. The idea is to protect the individual, personal honor, and especially society, from possible harm. However, this aspect, which is vital for the proper functioning of the freedom of press and consistent with the doctrine of democracy, has been neglected in condemning the government measure.

A remark made by the much ballyhooed president of the Paraguayan Febrerista Revolutionary Party, Euclides Acevedo -- "we must fight to death to defend the elbow room we have gained" -- reveals a great deal for analysis.

This means that the punished newspaper was the unofficial mouthpiece for the program being implemented with a specific objective in mind by the socialist Febrerista Party together with the other members of the so-called National Accord and other pressure groups created to "gain elbow room," gain strength, and broaden the scope.

However, for what type of program are elbowroom and scope needed? According to the usual statements of this group, whose main characteristic is its irregular status within the political framework, the mission is to encourage the development of a new mentality, a new tendency among Paraguayan people, which will be basically one of criticism and rejection of the established order.

Thus, it is not a program which contains elements favorable to the development of the nation, but a destructive one aimed at blinding the Paraguayan man to prevent him from seeing the gains achieved and awaken in him disbelief in government projects, thus predisposing him to making a revolution capable of bringing changes.

The ties of the man who is obviously the current leader of the Authentic Radical Liberals, the MOPOCOS [Popular Colorado Movement], the Febreristas, and the Christian Democrats, that is, the socialist Acevedo, tell us everything we need to know. He advocates left-wing socialism, an ideology which lives in permanent unity with international communism.

However, we have strayed to some extent from our original purpose. Our attention is drawn to the manner in which the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion, probably echoing the "concern" of the U.S. Department of State, has reacted. More than once, the U.S. Embassy has acted in a way that seemed to indicate a desire to question our sovereignty as an independent country. We cannot fail to realize the power of the United States, stemming from its economic and military strength, but no department of that nation has the right to influence domestic affairs of a free nation. If being a majority partner in credit institutions such as the IDB or the World Bank is the reason for the authoritarian attitude of the United States, this is the time to bear in mind that although Paraguay does resort to loans, as any other country, it does so to finance the development of the people and it pays its financial obligations, both amortization and interest, on time. Therefore, those who "do Paraguay a favor" in keeping with the capitalist system always take the profits due them, and it is to the sum of these profits from all debtor nations that the North American people owe their great prosperity.

Any additional payment other than the open and loyal alliance which the United States has always found in the Paraguayan Government and people would be inappropriate.

There is more to be said: The United States has made crass diplomatic mistakes over recent years. Its diplomacy has not worked, and neither have its armed interventions except for Grenada.

We could be asked to provide evidence supporting this statement. Very well, let us take a look at the results. Unfortunately, the leader of world democracy lost in Vietnam, leaving behind more than $5 billion in arms with which the communists are now killing people in Central America; the United States lost in Cambodia; it failed to react to Poland, Afghanistan, or Czechoslovakia; it has been slapped in the face in Iran; it abandoned Lebanon; it lost in Cuba; and thanks to its decisive cooperation, the communists now hold power in Nicaragua, etc.

Any other argument pales before these facts. The plain truth is that day after day we have been losing pieces on the great geographical chessboard -- the world.

This is happening because the United States follows no coherent policy, mainly because it fails to fully understand the nature and kind of enemy it has to deal with: communism. This lack of understanding is such that many times it becomes instrumental in helping communism gain more ground.

This is a key matter which the West and especially the United States fails to understand. Any dialogue with the communists would be insignificant and irrelevant because the very communist doctrine poses dogmatic restrictions for any such program. The communists did not unleash a worldwide revolution to stop somewhere in between or to seek agreements, but to defeat, to annihilate the Western world and its democracy.

This is the main and great issue that must be understood fully. It must be understood by the North Americans, by the local newspapers, and by the citizenry, who fortunately fervently support the attitude of the government, which has no other objective than to defend the people from the enemies who threaten them.

Thus, when firm action becomes necessary it should be used. Otherwise, one may lose control of the situation, and whether one is prepared to admit it or not, ABC COLOR was not a helpful and positive factor in our society but a disruptive wedge, a deadly injection with delayed effect against the spriitual cohesion of the nation. The way things were going, we were moving toward another 1947 [reference made to revolution and civil war which took place in Paraguay], and the Colorado people will never give up their holy mission of presiding over the fate of the nation, that is, their sovereign right to rule the nation, for as long as they are the majority.

Therefore, if there are any intentions of interfering, it should be done with full awareness of the situation. This goes for the United States. It is high time there was an end to errors of judgment for which a high price must be paid, as is the case of Nicaragua or Fidel Castro's Cuba today.

OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR ARGENTINE AID CUTOFF

PY272125 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1952 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (DYN) -- Domingo Laino, Paraguayan political leader and tenacious opponent of Alfredo Stroessner's regime, has asked Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli to cut all Argentine aid to the Paraguayan Government and warned him that the Paraguayan authorities cooperate with various groups which try to destabilize the Latin American democratic process. In statements to DYN, Laino disclosed that he met with Minister Troccoli yesterday afternoon and said that the meeting "surpassed our initial expectations."

Laino also said that he had asked Minister Troccoli "to meet with the Liberal Internationa organization headquartered in London, since a delegation of this organization plans to visit Buenos Aires to meet with high-ranking authorities of the national executive branch." He added that Troccoli "confirmed that he will meet the delegation in an audience to be held on 23 April at 1800."

Laino also said that he had discussed with the minister subjects "related to the southern cone and the destabilizing policy that seems to stem from certain financial centers of power."

In this regard he mentioned the international consultant firms Beri S.A. and Sullivan Co., that predicted that President Raul Alfonsin's government would fall before its constitutional mandate expired. Laino added that "within that context we reviewed Paraguay's situation and we told the minister that there is proof that Stroessner's government has cooperated to destabilize constitutional governments in the southern cone."

He also pointed out that there are concrete charges on the illegal traffic of arms through Paraguay destined for South Africa despite the specific resolutions in this regard issued by the United Nations.

Regarding the Paraguayan Government's support for destabilizing plans in Latin America, Laino recalled that a member of the extreme right terrorist organization "Triple A" some time ago confessed of having illegally pruchased submachine guns in Paraguay. He added that "there is the case of the murder of Orlando Letelier (former member of Chilean President Salvador Allende's government) in which Michael Townley, one of the confessed murderers and who is now in the United States obtained a Paraguayan passport."

Laino also mentioned the meetings held 8 days before the military coup, headed by General Augusto Pinochet, which "were held in Puerto Stroessner, capital of the Paraguayan Alto Parana Department." He claimed that "Paraguayan, Argentine, Bolivian, and Chilean officers took part in that meeting which was followed by the military coup." Laino added that shortly before the coup, the Paraguayan military attache to Chile "was one of the bearers, through the diplomatic pouch, of some $300,000 or $500,000 to finance the teamsters' strike that destabilized Allende's government."

Moreover, Laino said that the Paraguayan authorities also helped General Hugo Banzer to oust Juan Jose Torres' government in Bolivia. Laino stated that "there are a number of cases in which Stroessner's government obviously played an important role in destabilizing progressive or constitutional governments." The Paraguayan politician stated that this issue was discussed with the interior minister "who paid close attention."

When he was asked what sort of gestures of solidarity with the Paraguayan opposition has been requested of Troccoli, Laino answered that "we, the Paraguayan democrats, do not ask help from any foreign government." Laino emphasized that "we believe that the Paraguayans themselves will be able to free our country through their own means and forces. What we want is that no aid be given to the dictator Stroessner, that is, that no aid be given to the enemy of democracy, to the tyrant."

Laino said that he had told the interior minister that "we are now organizing, on the border with Paraguay, all those who live in exile for political and economic reasons within the framework of the struggle which we have adopted, that is, active nonviolence, to wich Troccoli agreed."

Laino ended by stating that he thanked the minister for the implementation of Decree No 780, on immigration, in which foreigners who can justify their presence in Argentina since 30 November 1983 will be granted permanent residence which "will prevent the hiring of illegal labor."

Laino is vice president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party which is part of the opposition Natonal Accord.

RAPELA ON LEFTIST PARTIES, INDIRECT ELECTIONS

PY242040 Paris AFP in Spanish 1358 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Uruguayan Interior Minister General Julio Cesar Rapela has stated that the Armed Forces are trying to pave the road for certain leftist political sectors.

Gen Rapela, who is also chairman of the Armed Forces Political Affairs Commission, which is charged with interpreting Institutional Act No 4 which banned several persons and political parties, emphasized that the way things are looking right now, there is a possibility that there will be an opening for certain sectors of the left. For example, the ban could be lifted from the Christian Democratic Party and the Socialist Party. Regarding the latter, Rapela said the possibility is being studied in depth because it must be ascertained that none of the groups to be reinstated have been directly involved in past events.

He also emphasized that the status of the Blanco Party leader, the exiled Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, is negotiable and that he would not be politically reinstated until his situation with the military court, which wants him for alleged involvement with extremists, is resolved.

Concerning the possibility of holding indirect elections, which Blanco Party leader Juan Pivel Devoto conveyed to the Armed Forces as a personal idea of his, the interior minister said that he did not believe it to be the most appropriate thing at this point. Pivel Devoto's attitude was harshly criticized by members of his own party and by the other two parties which have permission to operate in Uruguay, the Colorado Party and the Civic Union. The uproar forced a meeting of the Executive Board of the Blanco Party which gave Pivel Devoto its vote of confidence.

Gen Rapela said that for some time now the nation has been using a different system to elect its leaders and he did not believe that the people were prepared to handle a substantial change. He added that the people want to participate directly in the election and if any desire at all can be seen among the citizenry it is precisely to participate. Gen Rapela feels that implementing indirect elections would be taking this chance to participate away from the people.

Concerning the general elections slated for next November, Rapela said that first an agreement must be reached to establish the rules of the game and the fine points of the process, what deserves to be maintained, and what should be changed or adjusted. There are several details which must be discussed and settled with the politicians so that the elections can be held with a nationwide agreement, Gen Rapela said.

Regarding Institutional Act No 4 and its possible abrogation, the interior minister indicated that it will not be abrogated during the current process, but certain changes will be made to it. He said: For example, certain groups, political sectors, and men could be politically reinstated, but a flat abrogation of the fact is not possible.

He concluded by saying that the government in studying possible reforms to the law on political parties to allow minority factions within the various parties to present candidates at the November elections.

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR NEW DAY OF PROTEST

PY271433 Paris AFP in Spanish 2052 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported today in Montevideo that several political, union, and student sectors of Uruguay have called for a new day of national protest against the current political, economic, and social situation in the country. This day of protest will be staged on the evening of 1 April and will feature the banging of pots, voluntary blackouts, and rallies, according to the organizers.

These demonstrations began on 25 September 1983 and were repeated several times until the end of the year. In 1984 only 1 day of protest was staged in January, which was held simultaneously with a general stoppage, the first in 10 years.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO BE FORMED BY 1 APRIL

PY241803 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] On Sunday, 1 April, a ceremony will be held in which leaders of the Social Democratic Party will assume their posts. The party is now being formed. This piece of news was given to Radio El Espectador this morning by (Pedro Segales), one of the founders of the new party. In the last few hours, permission to hold the meeting was obtained from authorities of the police chief's office.

COLORADO PARTY CONDEMNS BAN ON PARAGUAYAN PAPER

PY270158 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Our mobile unit No 4 will now report on the separate meetings that the executive boards of the Colorado and Blanco Parties are holding tonight.

The National Executive Committee of the Colorado Party issued a communique that was probably approved in the first part of tonight's meeting. In the communique, the party condemns the closure of the Paraguayan newspaper ABC COLOR and the imprisonment of Aldo Zuccolillo, its publisher, because this action is an affront to Latin American democracy.

The party also condemns the ban on the meeting that Southern Cone parties were to hold in Paraguay and that Uruguayan parties had promised to attend. The Colorado Party also expresses its solidarity with the Paraguayan democratic parties whose struggle against the Stroessner dictatorship, the communique concludes, has been traditionally supported by the Colorado Party.

DE LA MADRID ON CONTADORA, L.A., U.S. RELATIONS

PA261820 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 23 Mar 84 pp 1-A, 11-A

[Interview with President Miguel de la Madrid by staff writer Edgar Caldas Very in Mexico City -- date not given]

[Text] Question: President Miguel de la Madrid, while the Contadora technical group is preparing a general outline for peace in Central America to be submitted for analysis by and the possible approval of the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama and their Central American counterparts during a meeting on 30 April, tension is increasing in the region, particularly on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua. Don't you believe that, given the most recent event, the Contadora member-governments should hold a special meeting?

Answer: Well, if there is one thing that the Contadora Group experience has taught us, it is that the diplomacy of peace is an arduous path that requires perseverence and patience as essential virtues.

Of course we are greatly concerned over the fact that while the Contadora Group mechanisms are being activated and made functional, the tension of war, violence, and intervention is not lessening; on the contrary, at times it seems to be escalating.

I believe that the moral strength, the great support of the international community that the Contadora operation has gained, has kept events from becoming more critical than they have been so far. Of course, the ideal, most advisable thing would be for all the parties directly or indirectly involved in the Central American conflict to refrain, in action as well as in word, from espousing violence and tension.

The Contadora Group is very aware of developments. In the event of an emergency, we are prepared to take special action; however, for the moment, I believe that the work of the Contadora technical groups is the surest, most responsible path for seeking peace in Central America.

I believe that, in addition to diplomatic efforts to end violence and reach agreements to freeze the arms level and guarantee nonintervention by some countries in the affairs of others, it is also indispensable for parallel action to be taken in the economic and social areas. That is the purpose of the Support Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America, which is trying to interest the international community in supporting the development efforts of Central American countries.

In our opinion, the current Central American conflicts are primarily due to the area's state of economic and social underdevelopment. Consequently, it is necessary to attack the deeply rooted causes of that underdevelopment and to reaffirm that, for the Central American peoples to develop efficiently, a climate of peace is needed.

Question: Nicaragua and Cuba have urgently appealed to the Contadora Group to stop the U.S. maneuvers in Central America.

What does Contadora plan to do, or what should it do, since the United States claims in its Kissinger report that "for any regional agreement to be durable it must have our support," and that "the United States cannot use the Contadora process as a substitute for its foreign policy?" Do you think there is a need for U.S. permission to have a negotiated peace in Central America?

Answer: I believe that the Contadora Group's main objective is peace, and that the strength of this group does not lie in arms. None of the group's countries is a military power. Our strength is based on reason and laws, and we believe that this strength is still important and noticed in the world.

The Contadora Group's position is that neither force nor military intervention can resolve the Central American conflict. We have repeatedly stated this, and based on this position, Contadora can help prevent a worsening of the Central American conflict.

We believe that in the Central American conflict there are, in addition to the parties directly involved, interested parties, parties that are interested on what happens in the area. The U.S. Government is certainly one of these interested parties. We have kept the U.S. Government -- and the entire international community -- informed about the proposals and work of the Contadora Group.

The Contadora Group has been able to demonstrate that four Latin American countries that do not have military power can, through the use of arguments based on reason and the law, acquire such moral strength that they can have a dialogue with the United States. We will continue on this path.

Our main strength lies in the fact that the Contadora Group is made up of countries with an honorable and independent foreign policy.

Question: Mr President, in this context, how do you view the Kissinger report's statements about the Contadora Group?

Answer: That is the opinion of an advisory commission created by the U.S. President. However, we believe that the main responsibility for U.S. foreign policy lies with the executive -- with the U.S. Government -- with participation by the U.S. Congress. [sentence as published]

Question: The Kissinger report has a basically nationalist spirit, while Contadora has emerged as a regional process to resolve the Central American crisis. Have the members of this group thought about the mechanism that will be used to assure compliance with the Document of Objectives, which includes the creation of political, socio-economic, and security commissions?

Answer: I believe that the legal agreement doucments that are being drafted by technical groups of Contadora should list the mechanisms that will ensure compliance with the commitments we hope the Central American countries will make.

Compliance with these agreements, of course, depends on the political will of the parties, but much will depend, also, on international disposition toward these agreements.

The Contadora Group has the best disposition to help with the specific mechanisms that will ensure compliance.

The Support Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America has been created. This committee is a specific, functioning mechanism aimed at promoting international economic cooperation with the development efforts of these countries.

Question: It is rumored that the purpose of your visit to Colombia will not be solely to sign a statement and some agreements, but also to present to President Betancur a proposal for peace in Central America that is to be discussed within the Contadora Group. What can you say about this?

Answer: I really have no new proposals to make regarding the Central American policy of Colombia and Mexico, because our two countries are constantly in contact, both bilaterally and through the Contadora Group, on the Central American issue.

President Betancur and I frequently talk by telephone. We understand each other easily and we have established and developed a very good personal friendship, which allows us to have frequent contacts, at least by telephone, and of course, through our foreign ministries and our representatives in the Contadora Group.

I hope that during this visit to Colombia -- in which, in addition to having the pleasure of greeting my friend Belisario Betancur, I will have the satisfaction of personally greeting the Colombian people and their government -- we will be able to make a general assessment of the Central American situation and of the status of the Contadora Group efforts, and exchange ideas about the strategy that we should follow in the immediate term to achieve our common objectives.

Question: After the meeting of leaders in Cancun and the establishment of more concrete objectives for the Contadora Group, would you, Mr President, support a new summit meeting of the Group to strengthen the credibility of the Contadora process?

Answer: I believe that a meeting of the Contadora Group presidents would be justified after the conclusions and advances of the Contadora Group and its technical groups have been somewhat developed. I would be amenable to such a meeting whenever it is necessary and useful. This will be one of the points that I will discuss with President Betancur to learn his enlightened opinion.

Question: How many agreements and what type of declaration will you sign during your visit to Colombia?

Answer: We are still preparing ourselves for this visit and the result of it will be personally determined by President Betancur and me in joint communiques and in specific agreements. For the time being I will say that Mexico wishes to improve and promote closer relations with the people and Government of Colombia, with whom we have had long-standing, cordial, respectful, and solid relations.

Question: There is great anticipation in Colombia over your visit, because you are considered a popular president and an exponent of democratic principles. What would be your first message to the Colombian people?

Answer: That I wish to express my brotherly greetings to the Colombian people, my satisfaction for this opportunity to be in Bogota in a few days, my hope that this trip will serve to increase the friendly relations between our peoples and governments, and also my desire to find a way to improve our political, economic, and cultural relations. Colombians and Mexicans are a part of the great Latin American community and I hope that time will give us the strength to see our community more united in a spirit of cooperation and in the desire to work together, and more coordinated in establishing the basic principles of our foreign policy.

Obligatory Topic

Question: It is known that your South American tour will also include Venezuela, Argentina, and Brazil. Besides strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation, will there be a dialogue on foreign debt, taking into consideration that these countries, along with yours, are the most indebted in Latin America?

Answer: I think that the foreign debt is an obligatory topic when I consider and analyze the economic problems that are at this time a burden to Latin America. However, the foreign debt is not an autonomous and independent variable of other very important economic phenomena. I believe that the foreign debt is the result of internal economic policies that our countries have followed, but also of international economic situations that have forced us to cover the payment deficit with foreign debts. Furthermore, we have had to cover this deficit under financing conditions that are not adequate in terms of installments and costs.

I think that the debt problem has to be placed in the more general context of the internal economic situation of each of the countries, of the economic situation of the Latin American subcontinent, and the relationship that exists between the Latin American foreign debt and the conditions of world trade and finance.

Only in this context can we make an in-depth analysis that would lead us to objective conclusions, which would suggest reasonable, feasible, and effective measures for our people.

Certainly, the topic of foreign debt within this great international and Latin American economic context will be one of the subjects I will discuss with the presidents of the Latin American countries I will visit in coming weeks.

More Purchases

Question: In the field of trade, statistics show that between 1972 and 1983 the number of Mexican exports to Colombia was greater than its imports, which favors your balance. Will you take advantage of your visit to Bogota to make new plans for purchasing more from us?

Answer: We Mexicans are interested in achieving a greater equilibrium in our trade accounts with Colombia. We want to seek opportunities to purchase more from Colombia, and of course we are also interested in considering other cooperation projects such as joint investments in our respective countries and joint investments in industrial matters. But above all, what the Colombians and Mexicans need most is to have more knowledge, to know the state of our economies, what trade possibilities we have, and what joint cooperation projects we can pinpoint and develop within a general framework of greater economic cooperation among all of the Latin American countries.

Renegotiation of the Debt

Question: After the last economic conference in Quito, Latin America expressed optimism about overcoming its problems. Do you, De la Madrid, agree with a regional renegotiation of the foreign debt, or should each country resolve its own problems?

Answer: I believe that the current operating condition of the international financial system makes a global renegotiation of each and every Latin American country's debt impossible. I believe each country, according to its own circumstances and its economic and trade perspectives, should handle its own renegotiation, as has been done in the past.

However, this does not prevent the Latin American nations from discussing the problems among themselves, thus helping one another view individual problems. It also does not prevent the Latin American countries from adopting joint positions in the world dialogue on economic problems or making the industrialized countries see that the economic recovery apparent in some of their countries could be endangered if the problem of financing the underdeveloped countries, particularly Latin American countries, is not adequately resolved.

The Latin American countries have helped to clarify some ideas. We see daily that the industrialized countries and their economic experts are increasingly more of the opinion that the word economic recovery will not be firm if reasonable arrangements are not made with the underdeveloped countries, specifically with the Latin American countries, who have historically demonstrated their great economic dynamics and the importance of their markets for international trade.

Question: It is clear that the Latin American countries cannot, under current circumstances, pay their foreign debt without suffering a draining of capital. Is the solution to continue paying high interest rates, or is there another mechanism, such as asking the industrialized countries to buy more of our products and to reform their protectionist measures?

Answer: The foreign debt problem is very complex and cannot be resolved through a single solution; however, your question implies some of the elements which have not been explored in this regard.

The Latin American countries should be given greater access to the industrialized markets, not only to help pay the debt, but to finance the necessary imports for our development process. I also agree that we Latin Americans should endorse the proposal that industrialized countries take measures to avoid the high cost of the currency exchange that is making servicing the debt extraordinarily expensive.

The high interest rates on the international markets are the direct result of imprudent policies in the industrialized countries.

Question: Mr President, how have the economic and austerity measures adopted by your government affected the country?

Answer: They have had diverse effects. Mexico has overcome the most dramatic phase of the economic crisis. We have avoided the continued rise of inflation; moreover, we reduced inflation by one-fifth in 1983. We have resumed our economic and financial relations abroad by recovering the management of our currency exchange policies, which had slipped from our hands during the final months of 1982; and we have restructured an important part of our public as well as private foreign debt.

I also believe that we have been relatively successful in avoiding the elimination of job sources that would consequently result in unemployment, which was an imminent danger during final 1982. The Mexican economy declined in 1983, but I do not believe it dropped by more than 5 percent. Of course a 5-percent drop is very important for Mexico, but if we consider the scope of the crisis we can see that this decrease would have been much greater if the Mexican people had not faced their economic situation with realism and responsibility.

Similarly, in order to determine the effects of the economic policy, we have to consider what might have happened if we had not acted realistically and responsibly.

We are in the process of overcoming the worst part of the crisis, but we still have important problems to resolve.

We are determined to continue fighting these problems, attacking inflation, the most harmful phenomenon that pushed us into this situation, and laying the bases for sustained, firm growth by making some important changes in this direction.

We know that the crisis did not come about by itself. We Mexicans do not hold events outside our borders responsible for what is happening inside those borders. We know we have to face our own responsibilities; we are willing to make the necessary corrections and the needed innovations with a strategy for a healthy, sustained growth leading to a better distribution of social benefits.

Question: Mr President, what can you tell us about the moralization campaign of the public administration?

Answer: We have made progress. Our society's moral rejuvenation was one of the major issues of my political campaign. This demonstrates that the Mexican people are highly moral and do not tolerate corruption, but demand that it be combatted.

We have amended constitutional laws and regulations as well as administrative systems so that the government can set the example in this great campaign for moral renovation.

In short, we are aiming for larger responsibility on the part of government officials, preventing corruption, and handling public funds honestly. In addition, we have strived to increase the government's efficiency and productivity.

We have made progress. Where we had sufficient grounds, we have demanded greater responsibility. I still think that the drive to attain moral renovation is deep and far-reaching. All sectors of society are to be involved, starting with the government.

Question: In view of the observed inequality between the two nations, how do you describe Mexican-U.S. bilateral relations?

Answer: The inequality is obvious. The United States is a power in the full sense of the word. The inequality in the economy, society, and standard of living of the two countries is enormous. This creates a special problem for Mexican-U.S. relations.

I believe, however, that U.S.-Mexican bilateral relations are at a peak right now. We have found that the U.S. Government understands our problems and is willing to help in overcoming them. This does not mean that there are no problems between us. There will always be problems between neighbors, particularly neighbors as unequal as the United States and Mexico.

We maintain an independent stance regarding the United States and try to maintain a cordial, fruitful, and worthy relationship. We always have problems, but we discuss them with dignity, as I have said, while at the same time maintaining a constructive spirit. These are the elements that characterize Mexican-U.S. relations.

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS

PA281345 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 1-A

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry on 27 March]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Panama wishes to state that the Panamanian Government will not participate in the military maneuvers scheduled to be held in the Caribbean and Central American area. The National Defense Forces of Panama are committed to ensuring the nation's internal peace and to contributing to the normal development of the electoral process.

The Panamanian Government reiterates its support for the principle of peaceful coexistence and for the observance of the rules of international law, which govern relations between states.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON CONTADORA ACTIONS, ROLE

PA220429 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Contadora Group is supplying the basic documents so that the Central American countries can acquire the contractual obligations of preserving peace on the isthmus, Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega has asserted.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We will meet on 30 April to receive reports from the three appointed commissions. This will be an important meeting because it will give us a working document resulting from the efforts and consensus at a very high level of all the countries represented.

[Reporter] Why is the CADESCA [Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America] secretary general present at the meetings of the technical group?

[Ortega] CADESCA is part of SELA and was created as part of the Contadora Group's initiative in dealing with economic problems. Its secretary general has attended the meetings in order to outline CADESCA's objectives and its special interest in developing the region's resources and in contacting international financial institutions that may help the region achieve its economic development.

[Reporter] Nicaragua has asked for more specific action by the Contadora Group in view of an imminent U.S. invasion. What is the group's position on this?

[Ortega] The Contadora Group acts on joint decisions. A separate statement made by one of its ministers does not represent the group's position. Therefore, this matter would require consultations between the foreign ministers before any decisions were made. In the meantime, our role in the region is certain, real, and objective. We know that the conflicts are difficult and serious; that is why the group was formed. That is also why we think the reports and projects to be delivered on 30 April are very important for arriving at conclusions and agreements. We could say that as yet the Central American countries do not have any contractual obligations; they have not signed any international agreement demanding specific measures from them. Despite the efforts made, the documents approved by the Contadora Group are only the basis for this treaty. [end recording]

ARIAS DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT MISMANAGEMENT

PA280333 Panama City YA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 11-A

[Speech by Dr Arnulfo Arias, president of the Authentic Panamenist Party and presidential candidate of the Opposition Democratic Alliance, on 25 March in David, Chiriqui Province]

[Excerpts] I. Introduction

As I have stated before, the country's economy is in a state of chaos. Unemployment is high and the people's living conditions are constantly deteriorating. Immorality, corruption, and inefficiency in the state funds administration has resulted in an enormous public debt. More than half of government income goes to pay debt interests, and the government is constantly paying for the losses caused by erroneous projects, squandering, and corruption in the administration of the Social Security Fund, of COFINA [National Financial Corporation], the sugar mills, and many others.

Denouncing Abuses and Corruption

Now we are here in the proud Province of Chiriqui to continue denouncing mismanagement, abuse, and corruption. But we are here also to bring you a word of hope: to tell you that there are solutions for this province and for this country.

III. Government Current Policy

In recent years the policy for agriculture and livestock has had various characteristics:

1. The government's disorderly and deficient participation in agriculture and livestock production. This province in particular has been used for production experiments. Today, after millions in investments and expenditures, there is not a single agriculture and livestock enterprise created and managed by the state that has not been a total failure.

Discrimination

2. The price control policy has definitely been discriminatory toward farmers. Prices on their products are the same in David as in Panama, and they also have to pay transportation. When they buy in Panama City, they have to pay freight, and the prices on gasoline and diesel are higher here. In other words, they always pay for transportation whether they are buying or selling.

Price Control

Prices on farm products have been regulated, but not on other products, which means that farmers must sell at a price that is regulated and buy products that are not under any control.

3. Unfair Competition

The government had made possible and protected unfair and ruinous competition for the producer by permitting large-scale and open contraband by the favorites of the regime. This has been an unfair practice against the producers and the country.

Bananas

With regard to bananas, it is necessary to establish a reliable policy. A costly strike ended not long ago; the company as well as the workers have continually presented the situation to the government since 1982. The government, in an irresponsible attitude, has ignored the problems and only taken action when the company and the workers had a confrontation.

COSTA RICA

PASTORA REPORTEDLY ORDERS ATTACK ON GUARDSMEN

PA271842 San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish 16-23 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] In an official report to their leaders, members of the Northern Command have confirmed that Eden Pastora ordered his men to fire on the civil guardsmen who arrested a group of mercenaries in Costa Rica. This incident occurred last Sunday between Las Pampas and Las Pavas in Costa Rica, when a strongly armed anti-Sandinist group resisted arrest. They finally surrendered. Eden Pastora later broadcast a message containing strong and foul language, which ordered his men to use their arms to resist arrest by the civil guardsmen.

The report filed by the six guardsmen who participated in the incident brings out two particularly serious points: First, Pastora's men cannot only kill our guardsmen, but can use this as a pretext to initiate a serious incident between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, which could be made to appear as an attack by the Sandinist People's Army. Second, it was completely confirmed that the counterrevolutionaries have their operations headquarters in Costa Rica, from which they launch attacks on Nicaragua.

When the Civil Guard report was released to the public Tuesday afternoon, Monumental News and Channel 7 Television News immediately tried to contact the former commander [Eden Pastora] so that he could deny the Civil Guard accusations. Pastora was easily able to "deny" the Civil Guard version over radio and television, and also accused them of being communists.

Of course, no credence should be given to Pastora's denial, or to the very ridiculous position taken by Rodrigo Fournier [Channel 7 news director], particularly since, after claiming that the interview had been carried out between La Sabana and "the Nicaraguan mountains," Fournier hastened to say that he had actually called the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] headquarters in San Jose, which speedily located Pastora by radio, and that the two had had a lengthy talk.

Meanwhile, for approximately 30 minutes Tuesday morning, ARDE forces estimated at some 300 men attacked Nicaragua through the sector of Penas Blancas, using mortars and rifles. According to official reports from the Northern Command, the attack came from Costa Rica; however, Security Council members immediately denied this and said instead that the actions had taken place in Nicaragua.

In our previous reports, La Cruz residents mentioned that they had seen a large number of counterrevolutionaries in the canton and that whenever they asked, they were told that a large attack on Penas Blancas was going to take place. The attack did indeed occur on Tuesday morning. If the Security Council members would bother to go there, they would find out that La Cruz is virtually occupied by counterrevolutionaries and that there are large contingents of armed men on farms owned by well-known landowners in the region. They would see the counterrevolutionaries in Costa Rica.

EL SALVADOR

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTE COUNT

CEE Member Explains Process

PA271331 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0313 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Interview with Salvadoran Central Electoral Council, CCE, member Eliseo Rovira, by unidentified reporter, at CCE headquarters; no date given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] There is confusion among the Salvadorans and the national and international news media about how the final voting process will be carried out to elect the president and vice president of the Republic. What can you tell us about this?

[Rovira] Well, I will try to be as clear as possible; I will speak slowly and try to make you understand me. First of all, as we have said many times, 90 percent of the electoral process' honesty and purity is not up to the CCE itself. Instead, it is up to the members of the electoral boards who receive the votes. This has been published many times in the newspapers. Thank God that the national journalists were kind enough to publish this and include the proper explanations.

After closing the voting process, which is what interests you the most, the members of the electoral board and the members of the participating political parties count the votes. This is not the CCE's responsibility. They are in charge of preparing a document stating the number of votes that correspond to each party, the blank votes, and the lost votes -- I refer to the vote slips. They prepare this document in quadruplicate and make copies that are given to the political parties. The initial four copies are made on security paper, and one copy is kept by the electoral board members. Then all the documents are wrapped and taken to the corresponding municipal officials.

Tally To Begin at 0800

PA271417 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1320 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Raul Beltran report]

[Excerpts] [Begin relay] According to reports from central El Salvador, left-wing elements blew up secondary electrical towers in La Paz Department, leaving the entire department without vital electrical service last night. The incident especially affected Zacatelocuca, the departmental capital. Meanwhile in the capital, the Central Electoral Council announced a few minutes ago that the vote tally of last Sunday's elections is scheduled to start at exactly 0800 [1400 GMT]. [end relay]

ARENA Wins San Vicente

PA272005 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1952 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Engineer Roberto Meza, vice president of the Central Electoral Council, has reported the final election results for San Vicente Department, where the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has won the elections with approximately 11,726 votes to 11,134 for PDC [Christian Democratic Party]; 7,461 for PCN [National Conciliation Party]; 138 for MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement]; 354 for PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party]; 633 for PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party]; 725 for AD [Democratic Action]; and 98 for POP [Popular Orientation Party].

PDC Spokesman Reports Results

PA272301 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2234 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Mar (DPA) -- A spokesman for the Christian Democratic Party electoral council today revealed to DPA the results of the Sunday elections according to the computer installed at the party's headquarters:

Party	Percentage	Votes
Christian Democratic Party	45	503,224
Nationalist Republican Alliance	29.4	330,016
National Conciliation	18.6	209,000
Democratic Action	3.3	37,432
Salvadoran Popular Party	1.9	21,016
Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party	1.2	13,490
Stable Centrist Republican Movement	0.5	5,855
Popular Orientation Party	0.4	4,216

The Christian Democratic Party spokesman said the figures may vary from 50 to 200 votes, which will not modify the results, according to departments.

San Vicente Count Revised

PA272357 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2252 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Statement by Roberto Meza, vice president of the Central Electoral Council, CE -- live]

[Text] We are here again with you to give all Salvadorans the following partial results of the San Vicente Department: ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], 10,947 votes; PDC [Christian Democratic Party], 11,029 votes; PCN [National Conciliation Party], 7,471 votes; MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement], 130 votes; PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Movement], 361; PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party], 631 votes; AD [Democratic Action], 729 votes; and POP [Popular Orientation Party] 100 votes.

CCE Asks Reporters To Leave

PA280016 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2344 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran and foreign newsmen have been asked by the Central Electoral Council authorities to leave the premises where the votes are being counted for the presidential elections held 2 days ago. The votes are being counted in one of the buldings housing the El Salvador International Fair. Newsmen had been invited to be present during the vote count. However, at 1715 (2315 GMT) the Council's secretary general asked the newsmen to leave. The newsmen were asked to leave a few minutes after the Central Electoral Council issued a revision of previously announced reports on the Department of San Vincente, the first department to be counted. Although it had at first been reported that ultraconservative candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson had won in San Vicente, the Electoral Council revised its figures and said that Jose Napoleon Duarte, the Christian Democratic Party candidate, had received the most votes.

DURATE SEES SURE VICTORY IN RUNOFF ELECTION

PA271735 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] ...depends on the final result of the greatly delayed vote tally of its first free elections in 50 years, while Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte asserts that he is very close to obtaining a neat victory. Duarte said he garnered the largest number of votes in Sunday's elections and that he will be confirmed as president in a runoff election against Roberto D'Aubuisson of the ultrarightist National Republican Alliance. He charged yesterday during a news conference, however, that the Electoral Council, which was responsible for organizing the elections, is inept and demanded an investigation of some procedural defects.

CDHES CRITICIZES U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN C.A.

PA250329 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Salvadoran Human Rights Commission program commentary: "Before the National Conscience": "U.S. Intervention in Central America on the Rise"]

[Text] World public opinion focused last week on the Reagan administration's desperate efforts to increase the U.S. military, economic, and political presence in Central America, particularly in El Salvador. [Words indistinct] because the U.S. Congress is in vehement opposition to the continued supply of arms and dollars to the Salvadoran Government at the same time it insists on linking any type of aid to El Salvador to the human rights situation -- something that the White House is attempting to avoid.

With or without opposition, President Reagan has had no second thoughts about increasing [acelerar] his military intervention in Central America. We thus learn that 2,000 U.S. combat troops are currently on the Honduran-Salvadoran border and that a war fleet is soon to arrive on Honduras' Atlantic coast.

Moreover, we must add to this the already large U.S. military presence in several countries, particularly in Honduras and El Salvador. It is sufficient to point out the disproportionate amount of war materiel the Americans have transported to neighboring Honduras, where they even have plans to build a naval station.

The Reagan administration has requsted $93 million in military equipment and supplies for El Salvador, claiming that the Salvadoran Army has depleted its supplies and munitions. It must be pointed out that so for this year, El Salvador has already received $45 million from the United States -- all in military aid. To this, we must add the presence of the military advisers and all the political pressure that the United States exerts on El Salvador's politics.

For our part, we have repeatedly expressed our opinion on this matter: The majority of the Salvadoran people receive no benefit from the war. The carnage that is taking place in our country will end only when the parties involved realize that dialogue is the best way to reach solutions. The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, CDHES, reiterates its call to remain alert because the growing U.S. intervention in Central America, particularly in El Salvador, instead of bringing peace and well-being to the region, will become the spark of a regional confrontation of unimaginable proprotions.

Let us not broaden the war. Let us instead find a way to end it. The cost of in human lives, property damage, and destroyed families that the Salvadorans have paid is already too high. Ronald Reagan has no right to decide for us. Reagan has no right to tell us when we are going to die.

VENCEREMOS: ARMY UNABLE TO GUARANTEE ELECTION

PA272335 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] In this report we want to point out how absurd the U.S. Administration is in trying to hold elections while there is a people's war going on. The Army was not able to give the elections any protection or guarantee. The truth is that the puppet army showed that it did not have the military capability to guarantee the electoral farce in one-third of the country.

Domingo Monterrosa's Army could not guarantee the holding of elections. Meanwhile, the dictatorship concentrated its battalions in Jutiapa, Chinameca, San Jorge, and San Rafael Oriente in order to guarantee the electoral farce. However, our attacks, which started in towns in Usulutan, dislodged the Army and no electoral farce was held in those places. There is a simple reason for the failure of the elections: El Salvador is at war, a war that is being won by the people.

VENCEREMOS: 'REAGAN'S MILLIONS' CANNOT WIN WAR

PA272220 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Of the 271 municipalities in El Salvador, 90 did not hold elections. The Army led by Vides Casanova could not guarantee the development of the electoral farce in 90 municipalities. We know of 90 municipalities where elections were not held, and we are not counting the municipalities where the government was not able to hold elections because there were no ballot boxes. We repeat, of the 271 municipalities 90 did not hold the electoral farce.

However on VOA we are hearing the optimistic statements made by Ronald Reagan who most probably does not care if the electoral farce has failed in El Salvador, and who will try to make this failure into an excuse for increasing military aid, begging and demanding from the U.S. Congress help to save the critical situation of a Salvadoran Army that has lost its power and control over large areas of our national territory.

But our people will know how to defeat all the new maneuvers that Ronald Reagan may try to implement in our homeland. His hundreds of millions will be useless in stopping our triumph. Imperialism has not been able to stop the people's advance in El Salvador. We are telling Ronald Reagan that his millions will be useless. Reagan's millions will be useless because they will not buy a new brain for Monterrosa or morale for an Army in constant disarray.

Meanwhile, the FMLN, the vanguard of the Salvadoran people, will continue increasing the war until we make illiteracy, hunger, misery, and the miserable living conditions of the workers disappear from El Salvador, until the high infant mortality rate to which our children have been condemned by the oligarchy has disappeared. We will continue struggling until we can turn the insulting luxury of the oligarchs into welfare for our people. This we reiterate before the world: The FMLN will not put down a single rifle until the causes that originated this conflict have been removed. We call on our people to close ranks, to increase organization at all levels. To the students, workers, peasants, and the Salvadoran women, we call on you to join our revolutionary army, the FMLN army that marches inexorably toward power. Salvadorans, in the face of another failure of U.S. imperialism we cry before the world with greater conviction: We will win!

VENCEREMOS CLAIMS 48 POW'S TAKEN IN TWO ACTIONS

PA271503 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] On Sunday, 25 March, FMLN forces launched an attack on two Army companies in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department. Our military units defeated these 2 Army companies and seized 35 U.S.-made M-16 rifles, 2 M-69 grenade launchers, 2 M-60 machine guns, 2 military radio sets, and 32 prisoners. During these two strikes against the dictatorship's forces, our revolutionary army seized the following U.S.-made materiel from the genocidal army: 75 M-16 rifles, 1 90-mm gun, 2 M-79 grenade launchers, 5 M-60 machine guns, and 5 military radio sets. If we combine the 16 prisoners captured at El Cumbo Hill in San Vicente Department with prisoners of war taken in Cabanas Department, we captured a total of 48 soldiers in these 2 actions.

GUATEMALA

U.S. OFFICIAL'S ALLEGED REMARK ON BELIZE CITED

PA280206 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] The Union for Guatemalan Recovery of Belize, URGE Belize, has addressed the Guatemalan people through the media to state that several events that have taken place recently seriously imperil our country's territorial integrity. All Guatemalans know that on 1 July, we citizens must go to the polls to choose the people to represent us in the national constituent assembly that will draft a new constitution.

Recently, another emissary of the U.S. Government, Robert Bloom, arrived in our country. According to widely disseminated reports, he was interviewed by a television reporter along with several well known representatives of Guatemalan political parties.

Mr Bloom told these people that his government would look very favorably upon a decision by Guatemala to desist from its claim to Belize, which it has made to the British Government.

Our information adds that only ONE [uppercase as published] of the political party representatives expressed opposition to the peculiar idea suggested by Mr Bloom, who is in charge of Guatemalan affairs at the U.S. State Department. For his part, Roy Taylor, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City, has denied that his government is pressuring its Guatemalan counterpart in this regard.

U.S. 'Interference' Rejected

PA280245 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Belize in the New Constitution"]

[Text] Last week, the media reported repeatedly the alleged interference by U.S. official Robert Bloom in the Belize issue. These reports indicated that during a visit with Guatemalan officials, he had suggested that Guatemala give up its claim to Belize. This position of clear interference in Guatemalan domestic affairs generated among Guatemalans a rejection of any interference that seeks to point Guatemala toward particular directions or rules of conduct in the management of a matter that is strictly its own affair and domain.

The foreign minister himself, Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran, when asked about his talks with Mr Bloom, said that they had discussed matters of interest to both countries, but that the subject of Belize had not been mentioned. Of course, this could be a discreet excuse by the foreign minister to avoid having to expand on the matter. However, in any case, he emphatically told newsmen that no foreigner can tell us what we should do with regard to the claim on Belize. That is the position that all Guatemalans, without distinction, want to hear from the foreign minister as the official position of the Guatemalan Government, because we must under no circumstance tolerate foreign interference in a case that, we repeat, is exclusively the domain of Guatemala and Guatemalans.

The case of Belize is an open wound in the hearts of all Guatemalans. The lack of solidarity of the American countries and even of the sister nations of the isthmus, when Great Britain proposed to grant unilateral independence to that territory, has left us alone in the struggle. However, this in no way means that we are prepared to surrender to the pretentions of Great Britain or the Belizean Government headed by George Price. Thus, the more than 100-year-old dispute over that terirotry remains unresolved. It should be very clear to the members of the constituent assembly that Belize is still Guatemalan territory and that the new constitution will have to express this clearly. Belize will continue to be another Guatemalan department, despite its special status, and the dispute about that strip of national territory will remain pending until we receive justice in the eyes of history.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN C.A.

PA280259 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran today said that the Central American situation has become complicated with the increase in guerrilla actions in El Salvador, the anti-Sandinist attacks in Nicaragua, and the latest border incidents in Costa Rica. He added that the presence of Soviet warships in the Caribbean also creates more tension and tends to complicate the situation.

The chief of Guatemalan diplomacy said a new meeting between the Central American foreign ministers and the Contadora Group foreign ministers is scheduled for next April to discuss these and other topics.

The foreign minister likewise praised the elections held yesterday in El Salvador and said that they were an example of democratic principles, civic spirit, and a yes to democracy.

In addition, government spokesman Ramon Celada Carrillo referred to the Salvadoran people's massive participation in the elections and deplored that some of them faced certain obstacles when they came to vote.

GOVERNMENT CLOSELY WATCHING SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA280235 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran and Ramon Celada Carrillo, foreign minister of Guatemala and secretary of public relations of the Presidency, respectively, have said that the government is closely following the electoral activities in El Salvador.

Andrade Diaz-Duran said the Salvadoran people's attitude is admirable and deserves respect because they have asserted their democratic beliefs. Celada Carrillo pointed out: The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has undoubtedly taken note of the positive and negative aspects of the elections in order not to make the same mistakes and to overcome any shortcomings. He concluded that the results of the Salvadoran elections will undoubtedly have a direct bearing on Guatemala's political activities.

REFUGEES AT ECUADORAN EMBASSY ALLOWED TO LEAVE

PA280255 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The government will provide the necessary guarantees and security to the individuals who are currently at the Ecuadoran Embassy as refugees so that they can depart for the country of their choice, according to Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran. Foreign Minister Andrade said that Ecuadoran Ambassador Cesar Roman officially told him about the persons who sought refuge at the Ecuadoran Embassy last week. They are: Marcial Alvarado Flores, Teresa de Jesus Chua Ordonez de Alvarado, Marcial Alvarado Chua, Maria Eugenia Molina (?Teisen) de Alvarado, Nadia Libertad Alvarado Molina, Ema Dinorah Alvarado Molina, Ema (?Teisen) Alvarado Molina, and Carlos Augusto Molina Palm.

40 ARRESTED IN POLICE RAIDS IN ESCUINTLA

PA271651 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Police, Treasury Guard, and Army units have been searching several private homes in downtown Escuintla, in suburban neighborhoods, and along the highway to the south in an attempt to locate subversives who killed 11 soldiers. Some 40 persons have been arrested so far in these operations, according to our correspondent Ruben Bonilla.

HONDURAS

SALVADORAN REFUGEES PROTEST RELOCATION TO ICCC

PA231844 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 11

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa -- The Salvadoran refugees reiterated to an ICCC [International Conference of Catholic Charities] mission from Spain, which visited them over the weekend, that they do not want to move to the area of Olanchito and that they would rather remain where they are. A local ICCC source told this to TIEMPO yesterday.

The Spanish ICCC mission included Manuel Herrera, secretary general of the Spanish ICCC, and Father Bienvenido Moreno, episcopal delegate from Granada, Spain. During the Spaniards' stay in the refugee camps in Mesa Grande, the refugees held a demonstration, carrying placards which read: "We refugees do not accept the relocation" and "We want more international support." The Salvadorans were protesting the Honduran Government's decision on 30 December 1983 that they should be transferred to [as published] San Antonio, Colomoncagua, and Mesa Grande, to Alto Aguan in Olanchito, Yoro.

The ICCC sources interviewed yesterday in the capital indicated that the refugees do not want to leave their current settlement because they have built their homes there with much effort. In addition, they say that they have schools, small plots of cultivated land, and tailoring, carpentry, and other workshops that allow them to be self-sufficient in some basic areas.

PNH CONVENTION PURGES LEADERS, ASSAILS LIBERALS

PA222149 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] We have information on yesterday's developments at the National Party of Honduras [PNH] convention. Several PNH dissidents were purged and (Mario Calix Urtecha), Juan Pablo Urrutia, and Jorge A. Gutierrez were removed from executive posts. The Central Committee was supported by 67 convention delegates who strongly criticized the Liberal government, describing it as inept and corrupt. Here is a report by correspondent Triro Murillo on yesterday's developments at the PNH convention:

[Begin Murillo recording] A total of 66 [as heard] principal PNH convention delegates confirmed the PNH's Central Committee and questioned the actions of 12 dissident convention delegates who supported the injunction filed by Mr Carias Andino with the Supreme Court of Justice. As an initial step, in view of this situation, the convention adopted measures to prevent further attempts to divide the party. For this reason, Antonio Rosa Bautista, convention delegate for Lempira Department, filed a formal motion asking the convention to suspend and to expel Juan Pablo Urrutia, Juan Miguel Funes Padilla, (Mario Calix Urtecha), Hector Sabino Cruz, and Guadalupe Lardizabal, whom he described as traitorous and disruptive. The motion was unanimously approved.

In their speeches, most of the convention delegates condemned the attitude of the dissidents and claimed that the Liberal Party is behind a maneuver to create deep divisions within the PNH, as claimed by Eduardo Pinto, convention delegate for (Coatepeque). Other stinging motions involved strong criticisms leveled at the government by all of the delegates who took the floor, who described it as corrupt and incapable of governing the country.

The key point on the convention's agenda was the manifesto to the Honduran people read by lawyer Manuel Acosta Bonilla stating the PNH's position on the social, economic, and political situation faced by the Honduran people. The document underscores instances of official corruption in various areas of the administration which are contrary to the aspirations of the Honduran people.

Acosta Bonilla strongly assailed the government in the document, outlining the party's displeasure over political, economic, and social matters and asserting that the U.S. Government will not respond to the Honduran Government's request for millions [currency not specified] in loans because some of the demands and aspirations of Honduran society have not been fulfilled.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA SEEKS CONTADORA AID AGAINST U.S.

PA272120 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, in Managua on 26 March]

[Text] In recent months, the U.S. Government has been carrying out an unprecedented escalation of its military presence in the region, reflected in the deployment of thousands of soldiers to Honduras, joining the 1,700 troops who are in that country as a remnant of the Big Pine II maneuvers, the deployment of warships and aircraft carriers, and the barefaced increase of spy flights. The escalation of the presence of U.S. troops and of the air and naval military presence in Central America is particularly worrisome because it constitutes an extremely grave factor that not only affects the Contadora process and peace in the region but tends to threaten the security of Latin American countries near the region.

Along with these actions, there has been a dangerous escalation of the United States' undeclared war on Nicaragua in recent weeks, in the form of terrorist attacks on economic and military installations, involving the use of airplanes, helicopters, and speedboats in a virtual air and naval war that has even included placing mines in our primary ports on the Atlantic and the Pacific. It is important to point out that indiscriminate actions like placing mines in Nicaraguan ports constitute a serious threat to international maritime traffic.

In addition, the U.S. Government has requested the U.S. Congress to provide an additional $21 million for the mercenary forces that are financed, organized, and armed by that government and that murder the Nicaraguan people. According to official CIA statements, these counterrevolutionary forces will soon number 18,000 armed criminals.

The civil war in the sister nation of El Salvador has unfortunately been absent from the agenda for the Contadora Group's peace process, thus weakening the chances that the group's initiatives will have an effect on the entire regional crisis. As a result, the U.S. Government, which is primarily responsible for the crisis in that nation and the rest of Central America, is absent from the negotiations. Thus, it is able to evade any responsibility for participation in the deliberations that have been held and, above all, for the concrete steps that must accompany those deliberations.

This situation, which increases the possibility of U.S. military intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua, has eclipsed [desfasado] the peace efforts that Contadora has thus far carried out and has undermined confidence in a peaceful resolution to Central America's crisis.

It is within this context that the Nicaraguan Government has been forced to request that the world's governments provide it with the necessary technical and military means to defend itself from the state terrorism unleasheed by the U.S. Government against the Nicaraguan people.

This grave situation, involving the escalation in the U.S. military presence and aggression in the region, has become the main obstacle preventing the Contadora Group from continuing to advance through the work of its three commissions and the technical group.

This situation requires that we direct all of our efforts toward eliminating the obstacle represented by U.S. policy so that we can attain the necessary conditions for new, definite progress in the Contadora Group with the support of the international community and that we undertake all efforts required by this serious situation, demanding that the U.S. Government stop impeding the Contadora negotiating process, specifically:

1. That the United States stop the escalation of the presence of its troops in Central America, withdrawing the contingents that were added in recent weeks to those already there, along with its spy planes, warships, and aircraft carriers that have been deployed in the region recently.

2. That it suspend all military maneuvers and exercises in the region.

3. That it halt its covert war against Nicaragua, the existence of which is proven by the air and naval attacks and the mining of our ports.

4. That it cancel its request for $21 million from the U.S. Congress, funds that are to be used in increasing the terrorist actions against Nicaragua.

Nicaragua, which has unconditionally recognized and supported the exemplary, Latin American, and peace-oriented efforts of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama, and which has mantained and will continue to maintain its desire for negotiations and its willingness to achieve a peaceful solution to the area's conflicts, believes that the Contadora Group, with the support of the international community, will undertake the extraordinary efforts demanded by the gravity of the situation in order to stop the deployment of U.S. troops and war materiel and the escalation of aggression against Nicaragua.

We feel that it must be borne in mind that despite Nicaragua's willingness to engage in dialogue and despite the Contadora Group's efforts throughout recent months, the U.S. Government has shown no willingness to date to meet its responsibilities in the region.

On the contrary, the U.S. Administration is engaged in the escalation of war to which we have referred, thus becoming the only obstacle to achieving peace in Central America through dialogue and negotiation.

After 50 years Sandino lives!

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON RAMIREZ' VISIT TO IRAN

PA251731 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 Mar 84 pp 1, 5

[Joint Iranian-Nicaraguan communique issued by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, prime minister of Iran, in Tehran on 15 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the highest.

Joint Iranian-Nicaraguan Communique

In response to an invitation from His Excellency Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua, paid an official and friendly visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 12-17 March 1984 and received a warm welcome from the officials of the host country.

The following high-ranking officials, along with other distinguished figures of the Republic of Nicaragua, accompanied His Excellency Dr Ramirez:

Miguel D'Escoto, foreign relations minister; Alejandro Martinez, foreign trade minister; Carlos Zarruck, transportation minister; Emilio Baltodano, industry minister; Emilio Rappaccioli, energy minister; Henry Lewites, tourism minister, Commander Omar Cabezas, chief of the political directorate of the Interior Ministry; Commander Raul Venerio, chief of the Sandinist Air Force; Companero Ernesto Aloma, director general for Asia and Africa of the Foreign Ministry; and Companero Orlando Gomez, section chief for Asia and Africa of the International Relations Department.

His Excellency Dr Ramirez held two sessions of talks with His Excellency Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere of full understanding. They discussed both their bilateral relations as well as international and regional topics.

The members of the two parties also held detailed and productive discussions on topics of mutual interest.

During their stay in Tehran, His Excellency Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado and his delegation also met and conferred with His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

In the talks, the two parties discussed in more detail the political and economic relations between the two countries.

While pointing out the political convergences and similarities of both countries in their anti-imperialist and anticolonialist struggles, the two parties stressed their desire for a more productive and constructive cooperation in the international organizations.

The two parties expressed their deep desire to expand and consolidate the close and cordial ties between the two countries in the political, economic, and cultural areas and they condemned the conspiracies of U.S. imperialism against the Islamic Revolution of Iran and against the Sandinist People's Revolution of Nicaragua.

They also emphasized the firm determination of the nations of Iran and Nicaragua to confront and defeat all aggressions, from wherever they may come.

In this regard, they condemned the military presence and the joint military maneuvers of the U.S. Armed Forces with other countries both in the Persian Gulf and in Central America, considering them direct threats against the revolutions of both countries and a threat to international peace and security. Both sides strongly condemned the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. warning and special notice that no aircraft or ship should approach the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf as an attack on international regulations and relevant conventions as well as being a violation of the sovereignty of the countries of this region.

Emphasizing the independence and right to sovereignty of all countries, the two parties once again expressed the full support of their respective governments for the actions of the other nation and government to safeguard the achievements of their revolutions and to face the aggression and the plots for world-wide sovereignty headed by the U.S. Government in the Persian Gulf and the Central American region.

Following the explanation given by His Excellency Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i on the many aspects of the war imposed on Iran by Iraq, including the massacre of the civilian population, the destruction of homes, the bombing of cities and nonmilitary installations, the use of chemical and biological weapons on the fronts of the imposed war and in residential areas -- evidence of which has already been submitted to international organizations -- both sides condemned the delivery to Iraq and the use of chemical, destructive, lethal, and mutilating weapons on the fronts of the imposed war and in civilian residential areas, which leads to the escalation of the imposed war.

Following the report presented by His Excellency Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado on the efforts for peace in Central America, His Excellency Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i applauded the efforts Nicaragua has made for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Central America, based on respect for the sovereignty of nations and their right to decide their destiny.

Regarding the counterrevolutionary activities carried out by CIA mercenaries based in Honduras, the two parties condemned the mining of the ports of El Bluff and Corinto which, in addition to constituting a military blockade, represent a threat to international maritime traffic whose consequences will be the responsibility of the Reagan administration.

After exchanging viewpoints on the Middle East problems, the aggressive and hegemonic policies of the Q.O.D.S. [Al-Quds -- Jerusalem] occupying regime and the U.S. support these measures were condemned and emphasis was placed on the need to liberate all the occupied territories and to respect the struggling Palestinians' sovereignty over their homeland.

Also in regard to the Middle East, the current situation in Lebanon and Palestine was also studied, along with the aggression and crimes committed by the Q.O.D.S. occupying regime and its defenders, particularly the United States, and the two parties reviewed the role of the multinational forces in Lebanon, which try to safeguard the illegitimate sovereignty of the dependent Phalange, which serves the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies.

In regard to the latter, the two parties stressed the need to put an end to the presence of those forces in Lebanon and reaffirmed the implacable struggle against the Q.O.D.C. occupying regime and the need to eliminate the vestiges of that aggression, including the illegal and illegitimate control of the Phalangists in Lebanon. In connection with this, both parties condemned any Zionist plot directed at the division and breakup of Lebanon, and they stressed the territorial integrity and unity of the country.

Regarding the Palestinian cause, while noting the entire history of aggression and crimes of the Q.O.D.S. occupying regime against the regional Muslim and Arab nations, especially the wronged Palestinian nation, and rejecting the plans for a submissive peace that have been proposed to stabilize and legitimize the aggression and the fruits of the Zionist aggressions from 1984 up to now, both sides stressed that true peace can be established in this part of the world only when deprived and oppressed Palestine gains all its legitimate rights, including its return to its homeland, its self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian government throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. With regard to this both parties expressed their support for the struggles of the combatant Palestinian and Muslim nation in the occupied territories, and they condemned the expansionist policies adopted by the Zionists, especially the Q.O.D.S., when they officially and openly annexed the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

While viewing the Latin American situation, the officials of the two countries vigorously condemned U.S. military intervention in independent Grenada and once again expressed their support for the anti-imperialist and liberation struggles of the deprived peoples of Latin America, especially the revolutionaries struggling for the freedom of El Salvador under the leadership of the FMLN and FDR and against the Salvadoran regime supported by the United States. They also condemned the Reagan administration's repressive and interventionist policy in other parts of Latin America and the inhuman measures practiced by the submissive regimes, especially the Augusto Pinochet military regime's actions against the struggling, freedom-loving Chilean people.

Condemning the tyrannical and fascist actions of the racist South African regime, both parties called for the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of the South Africa regime from Angola, and expressed their support for the struggle for liberation and independence in that region.

Both sides expressed their support for the struggle for independence and freedom of the Muslim people of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic under the leadership of the Polisario Front, and they called for an end to the military occupation of that country in accordance with the resolutions of the 19th OAU summit and the United Nations.

While expressing their support for a united and independent Africa liberated from the domination of colonialist governments, the two parties condemned neocolonialism in all its forms on this oppressed continent.

While they discussed the activities of the Nonaligned Movement, the officials of the two countries concluded that this movement, which was born of the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, and Zionism as well as from the need of various nations to free themselves from the yoke of military pacts and to maintain full independence from the great powers, has played a significant role in consolidating relations among the member-states and in confronting polarity. The two sides also emphasized the need to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and to safeguard it from the infiltration of elements of the great powers.

His Excellency Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to his delegation by the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

His Excellency Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua, extended an invitation to His Excellency Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to make an official visit to Nicaragua. This invitation was accepted with pleasure by His Excellency Musavi. The date of the visit will be agreed upon later through diplomatic channels.

GOVERNMENT, PARTY LEADERS DISCUSS ELECTIONS

PA250223 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 84

["Direct Line" phone-in program with guests Giocaonda Belli, FSLN representative at the State Council; Hugo Mejia, president of the National Council of Political Parties, CNPP; Jose Luis Medina, member of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, PSN; and Duilio Baltodano, of the Social Christian Party, PSC: several journalists, and unidentified moderator -- live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] First of all, I would like you to provide us with some information about the CNPP's functions and objectives, so as to clear some of the doubts that exist among our people and journalists who perhaps have not yet examined this body in detail.

[Mejia] As we all know, the political parties law, which was approved last year, creates two bodies for the participation of the political parties. One is the National Assembly of Political Parties [ANPP], which is comprised of one representative from each party. At present they total seven, in addition to the Government Junta delegate, who presides over it. This is a consultative body for the CNPP, the second body created by the political parties law. The CNPP will be installed on Monday.

What comprises the CNPP? The CNPP is made up of four representatives appointed by the ANPP in its last session. These four persons represent the PSC, the PSN, the PLI [Independent Liberal Party], and the FSLN. These four ANPP representatives will be joined in Monday's session by the representatives appointed by decision of the State Council. They are Companeros Reinaldo Payan, Carlos Garcia, and [name indistinct]. In other words, the four persons appointed by the ANPP, the three appointed by the State Council, and the junta delegate, who in this case presides over it, [words indistinct] make up the CNPP. This completes the installation of the two bodies created by the political parties law.

What is the function of the CNPP now that the ANPP has been established as its consultative body? In the first place, the CNPP will guarantee compliance with the political parties law, which establishes the political parties' rights and duties and the rights [words indistinct]. It will therefore watch over the operation of these parties. It is also the body that authorizes the creation of political parties. In addition to watching over the implementation of the law that regulates the development of the political parties, it is also the body that will either suspend or cancel these parties should there be serious violations of the political parties law. Most important, however, the CNPP has been created to ensure compliance with the law and to oversee the rights and duties of the political parties.

[Moderator] We would like to ask Dr Medina, of the PSN, and Dr Baltodano, of the PSC, how they view their presence in that body and what is the main purpose of their presence in it?

[Medina] With pleasure. We will say that in addition to what Companero President Mejia has said, the creation of these two new bodies, the ANPP and the CNPP, by the political parties law is of historical significance. We might view this as a historic landmark here in Nicaragua, since never before had there been a body charged with watching over the operation of the parties, guaranteeing their existence, and ensuring compliance with the existing legal and juridical system -- a specific law regulating the internal and external activities of the political parties. From now on, from the moment of the implementation of this law, the parties will be regulated by a framework that comprises three fundamental points: The political parties law, each party's internal statute, and the country's juridical and legal system.

The PSN regards its participation in the ANPP and the CNPP as a truly important development, a contribution. The political parties have the historical responsibility of watching over the Nicaraguan family's unity and furthering the revolutionary process to achieve the welfare of the Nicaraguan people.

[Baltodano] We are participating in the ANPP and the CNPP to make a contribution, so that the measures adopted and the guarantees provided in the next election are impartial and just. We want to allow the parties to participate in a true struggle, in an egalitarian and truly impartial manner, so all Nicaraguans can have free elections for the first time in history.

[Moderator] Well, we will now pass the microphone to Companera Belli, who represents the FSLN in the State Council. After that we will go on to the questions.

[Belli] I think it is important to note that the process of institutionalization that the Sandinist people's revolution has begun is yet another conquest of the Nicaraguan people.

Despite the current attacks, which would be sufficient grounds in many other countries for not holding the elections, we will hold them, and they will be the Nicaraguan people's first free elections. This is a victory for the Nicaraguan people, obtained thanks to the FSLN, the only political force in this country that managed to lead the people toward a revolutionary victory.

[Baltodano] With regard to the question that was just asked over the telephone and that refers to myself, a member of the PSC, the listener asked what the opposition parties have said about the attacks on the border. I want to state to the large audience of Radio Sandino that the PSC has always been against the aggression. It has supported formulas to seek peace because the way to defeat the warmongers is with peace. We should not be mistaken. Peace will not be obtained by seeking more weapons than they have in order to defeat them. We must seek real peace among Nicaraguans -- among Nicaraguans who love Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan opposition should maintain a direct dialogue with the FSLN government in order to find peace formulas. We are not with the counterrevolution.

[Belli] I think it is important for us to clarify a few things. In a 10 November 1983 communique, the PSC issued a call for a dialogue among all the country's sectors. It asked for international supervision that would bring about a national dialogue that would lead to peace. I think it is important that we refer to this here because it is very easy to talk, but I think that what Nicaragua needs at this time is concrete action.

The only concrete action that we have seen in practice is, for example, when the PSC abandoned the State Council during the discussion of the electoral law. It left after having been present at the discussion of reforms for the fundamental statute that established the presidential and vice presidential candidacies. It abandoned the State Council after almost 79 articles of the electoral law had been discussed. In other words, this attitude does not help the process of institutionalization of the revolution because it tends to reduce credibility of the electoral process in Nicaragua.

[Unidentified reporter] I noticed that Companera Belli spoke of concrete action. The pluralist opening in Nicaragua is a concrete action. The pluralist opening is for all the ideological currents in the country. Nevertheless, so far the MAP [People's Action Movement] and the Authentic Social Christian Party [Partido Autentico Social Cristiano] have yet to receive a reply regarding their request to participate as political parties. I think Companero Hugo Mejia and the other members of the council should (?clarify this) today because this program has a large audience.

[Mejia] As I said in the beginning, the ANPP has been installed as a consultative body. On Monday afternoon, the CNPP will be installed. The CNPP will hear any request from a political group or group of citizens that wants to become a political party. Therefore, it must be clarified that because the CNPP has yet to be installed no member has yet received a request from the MAP or any other political group to become a political party. The purpose of installing the council next week is precisely to enable the groups to file their requests in accordance with the law. The council will then decide if the requests meet the legal requirements so as to process them and decide whether an authorization will be granted. Therefore, political pluralism continues to exist with regard to the current seven political parties and the political groups' right to become parties once the CNPP is installed.

[Baltodano] The PSC has already voiced very specific views on the electoral law. Gioconda Belli's statement that Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, the PSC representative in the State Council, withdrew from the debates is true. The party did this to protest the fact that the State Council president did not even give him a chance to speak on the topics being discussed. This is a protest, it is an honorable [words indistinct] because he would be endorsing a law but would not even have an opportunity to speak. The PSC has been constantly issuing its views on the electoral law. The electoral law does not staisfy the political parties. We want a reform of the law or the implementation of measures that will truly guarantee a free, honest, and egalitarian electoral process. We are not asking for advantages. We are outside the government. We are apart from the government but we want to participate on equal conditions in the electoral process.

[Mejia] I wanted to add two things for the sake of truth [words indistinct]. I was in the State Council debates. I know that the PSC representative, who is a very calm man, was respected by the State Council leadership and its members. He extensively and constantly participated in the State Council. He was one of the members who spoke more often in the sessions. Although on the day he withdrew he was not given the floor because of the agenda -- the State Council president has the right to do this -- he said that the reason he was withdrawing was that his party disagreed with the establishment of an election for president and vice president.

[Baltodano] It is true that when he withdrew, Garcia Vilchez stressed that the withdrawal was also due to the fact that the PSC has publicly stated to the Government Junta and the State Council that the elections we are preparing to hold should be constituent assembly elections for reasons of juridical logic and due to the political reality in the nation. The party has publicly expressed its view on this to the nation. It does not agree that a president and a vice president should be elected on 4 November 1984. Instead, it believes that a constituent assembly should be elected. In other words, we should elect the 90 delegates to the Nicaraguan constituent assembly. We are not the only ones that hold this position. A few days ago I was invited to a lecture in Leon by a member of the Communist Party of Nicaragua who maintained the same position that these should be constituent assembly elections because the constituent assembly will establish the new legal and political framework for the Nicaraguans. We do not currently have such a framework and we hope to have it with the constituent assembly. The election of the executive branch should come afterward. This is a public position that is known by all Nicaraguans.

D'ESCOTO PROTESTS TO HONDURAS OVER NEW ATTACK

PA271727 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Protest note sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica]

[Text] At 0330 yesterday, 25 March, an undetermined number of Honduran troops attacked, from Honduras, units of the Sandinist People's Army 5 km southwest of Somotillo. They fired 40 rounds of 80-mm mortars. Fortunately, there were no casualties in the criminal attack, which lasted 20 to 30 minutes.

On presenting its most formal and vigorous protest over this latest act of aggression and provocation, the Nicaraguan Government stresses to the secretary the extreme seriousness of the use of Honduran territory as a permanent U.S. military base and refuge for the mercenary bands at the service of that government. It should be noted that the policy of state terrorism carried out by the U.S. Administration has involved the Honduran Government to such a degree that the danger of a regional war seems nearer, which is in accordance with the U.S. plans broadly supported by the Honduran Government, in absolute contradiction of its own sovereignty and national interests and its publicized messages of verbal support for the Contadora Group's efforts.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest consideration.

[Signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister

MEJIA SWEARS IN MEMBERS OF PARTIES COUNCIL

PA271609 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The members of the National Council of Political Parties, CNPP, were sworn in today. This organization will determine the status of the country's political parties. The CNPP members were sworn in this afternoon by the CNPP president Companero Hugo Mejia, representative of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

The CNPP has eight members. Companero Hugo Mejia heads the council. Jose Luis Medina Bravo, representative of the National Assembly of Political Parties [Asamblea Nacional de Partidos Politicos -- ANPP] and the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, is the executive secretary. Other members are: Companera Gioconda Belli, representative of the ANPP and the FSLN; Juan Manuel Gutierrez, of the Independent Liberal Party; Duilo Baltodano, of the Social Christian Party, as alternate for Adan Fletes [president of the Social Christian Party]; Companero Reinaldo Payan, of the 19 July Sandinist Youth Movement; Carlos Garcia, representative of the State Council and the Popular Social Christian Party; and Amantina de Quintanilla.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at the auditorium of the State Council's Heroes and Martyrs of 22 January Building.

FSLN, SOCIAL CHRISTIAN SPOKESMEN INTERVIEWED

PA271831 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 0230 GMT 27 Mar 84

["Political Debates" phone-in program of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, FPR, with Reinaldo Payan, representative of the FSLN; Cesar Delgadillo Machado, representative of the Popular Social Christian Party, PPSC; and moderator Henry Briceno -- live]

[Excerpts] [Briceno] Prior to the broadcast we decided to discuss the Salvadoran elections, a very current topic. Cesar Delgadillo of the PPSC will comment on this.

[Delgadillo] From international reports and radio stations we have learned about the electoral farce held in El Salvador under the sponsorship of U.S. imperialism in an attempt to subjugate the Salvadoran people and destroy the achievements that the Salvadoran people, through the FMLN and FDR, have obtained through sacrifice and blood. In comparison, in free Nicaragua we will undertake a totally free, democratic, popular electoral process based on laws issued by the Nicaraguan people. For the first time in our history we will hold free and honest elections without any coercion. They will be elections in which the citizens will freely cast their secret vote in accordance with their conscience and wishes and without impositions or manipulations. The citizens will not be coerced while making their patriotic decision. Our elections are being economically and militarily attacked and boycotted by U.S. imperialism.

The aim of the elections in Nicaragua is not so that imperialism can come to subdue us, much less dictate its laws and views. Instead, the elections are part of the defense and sovereignty of our people and a reaffirmation of their desire for freedom and their revolutionary process. That is the great difference between what is occurring in El Salvador and what will occur in Nicaragua on 4 November 1984.

[Briceno] Reinaldo Payan, representative of the FSLN, will also discuss what is occurring in El Salvador.

[Payan] The current Central American situation is very dangerous. We received more information today about yesterday's elections in El Salvador. Radio Farabundo Marti, official voice of the FMLN, said that the elections were a farce. Some 60 percent of the electoral districts are under the control of FMLN forces. People were pressured or forced to vote because they have to be able to prove that they did so.

The Sandinist Assembly has told the militant and heroic people of Nicaragua that the elections are part of the defense of the revolution. In the sense that the elections are an integral part of defense, we think the main enemy of our people continues to be U.S. imperialism, which is carrying out an aggressive and adventurous policy, as shown by its complete support for the counterrevolutionary forces. A new escalation of incursions is foreseen with the involvement of Honduran Army troops. We are seeing a strategy of intervention being carried out in Central America. In this regard, our people must be aware that we have decided to hold the elections on 4 November, but at the same time they must be ready to undertake any task to defend this revolution.

[Briceno] We would like to have Cesar Delgadillo talk about elections in Nicaragua, especially the possibility that the PPSC might go alone to the 4 November elections.

[Delgadillo] This is an interesting question because after the approval of the electoral law there has been a period of what I would describe as political adaptation. There has been little political news lately. All the parties have been working individually and separately within their own various party structures. No one has been in the public eye because there has been a pause or adaptation. The debates on the electoral law left us somewhat tired, and we are taking a breather before continuing the Nicaraguan political struggle.

The PPSC has been touring all the departments and municipalities throughout the country to educate our members about current positions, the political parties law, today's installation of the National Council of Political Parties [CNPP], and the electoral law. We are ready and willing to participate in the 4 November 1984 elections, as the circumstances and the political moment warrant, whether allied or alone.

[Briceno] Reinaldo Payan will discuss the topic of the CNPP.

[Payan] The CNPP was officially installed today. It includes the four representatives of political parties who were appointed by the National Assembly of Political Parties, the three members of the State Council, and its president, Companero Hugo Mejia, the delegate of the Government Junta.

[Delgadillo] After the approval of the electoral law, the Supreme Electoral Council will have to be organized. We would like to ask Companero Payan how it will be formed and when it is estimated that this fourth branch of the state will meet? It will establish the foundation for the electoral process in Nicaragua.

[Payan] I believe that in the next few days the Supreme Court will appoint the three members of the Supreme Electoral Council so that they can establish all the provisions for the approximately 6,000 polling places where the Nicaraguan citizens will have to register. Those registrations have to come before the electoral campaign and the elections. We think that in the next few days the Supreme Court will be appointing the members of the Supreme Electoral Council so as to continue demonstrating our desire to hold the 4 November elections if there is no intervention in Central America.

[Briceno] A listener who did not identify himself had a question for Cesar Delgadillo regarding an alleged political alliance between the PPSC and the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN].

By the way, Gustavo Tablada is unfortunately not with us today due to his health. There are rumors that there is an unofficial alliance.

We did not get the name of the person making the call due to technical problems with the telephone line. Nevertheless, I think I should ask Delgadillo Machado of the PPSC about the possibility of a political alliance between the PPSC and PSN in the 4 November elections.

[Delgadillo] During this current period of political adaptation, all the organizations have been talking among themselves. We continue to talk with all of them about the electoral activity that will be carried out in the country. However, we have only spoken about alliances with the companeros of the FSLN and the PSN, which are our allies in the FPR. It can be said that none of the FPR member-organizations have announced whether they are going alone or allied to the elections. We are all involved in this period of accomodation, which I certainly believe should be over in the first days of April, because time passes and we must tell the people how we will participate in the 4 November elections. We have read an international report and a commentary in the newspaper AVANCE of the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCden] estimating the cost of an election campaign in Nicaragua. They estimate that a well organized 3-to-4-month-long campaign would cost approximately 20 million cordobas. They asked whether the government would be willing to finance such a campaign. Since Companero Payan was one of the most active State Council members in the drafting and approval of the electoral law, it would be interesting to hear his comments in this regard.

[Payan] We view the PcdeN's demand for 20 million for the elections as being somewhat unrealistic. An electoral campaign and elections are expensive and costly. The law that was approved establishes the allocation of 1.5 million cordobas to each political party that presents presidential and vice presidential candidates and 4.5 million cordobas to the political parties that present 90 candidates for representatives to the assembly. Therefore, this means 6 million to each political party. Based on 10 political parties plus those that might be created due to splits or divisions, we estimate it would be 600 million cordobas [figure as heard]. Six hundred million is a big effort for a country whose economy has been destroyed by sabotage and war. With 600 million cordobas many things can be solved. The state is financing the electoral campaign. We think the amount that the state has allocated is sufficient because each party has its members and they can contribute. The law has been approved and 6 million cordobas have been allocated for each party that presents presidential and vice presidential candidates and 90 candidates to be representatives. I think we should appreciate that effort made by our people so that the state could finance the campaigns of all the political parties in Nicaragua. I think it is improper to be asking for more.

[Briceno] Reinaldo Payan earlier commented on the alliance of the political parties of the FPR, that is the PSN, the PPSC, and the FSLN. Payan will discuss this.

[Payan] There is no decision yet on how a policy of unity might take place in the elections for the assembly of representatives. As a political party with social forces, as a party that represents the interests of the workers and peasants, of our people and nation, the FSLN appreciates the efforts that will be carried out to hold the 4 November elections. The FSLN tells our people that for the FSLN, the elections are the confirmation of the changes that we have been carrying out in Nicaragua. The elections should serve to confirm our right to defend our sovereignty and self-determination as a free people. These elections should serve to confirm a program that has been solving serious social problems we inherited from the Somozist system and from dependence on imperialism.

FSLN ASSEMBLY STATEMENT ON DEFENSE, ELECTIONS

PA261705 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0135 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Statement issued by the National Assembly of the FSLN "to the active Sandinists and the heroic people of Nicaragua," in Managua, on 25 March]

[Text] The third regular session of the 50th Anniversary Sandinist Assembly was held 23-25 March 1984. The main topic of the Sandinist Assembly was the defense, preservation, consolidation, and advance of the Sandinist popular revolution. Within this context, the assembly discussed the increasingly aggressive and risky policy of U.S. imperialism, exemplified by an upsurge in the deployment of military machinery, thousands of troops, communication centers, and the air and naval support to satisfy the military requirements necessary to launch a stronger aggression or even a direct military intervention against the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan people.

To this upsurge of the U.S. military presence in the area one must add the increase of terrorist actions against Nicaragua that the United States has carried out through the CIA, including the mining of Nicaraguan ports. These actions not only attack Nicaragua's sovereignty, its efforts to institutionalize democracy, and all norms of international law, but also damage the progress that the Contadora Group has made toward dialogue and finding a political solution to the problems of the area.

The assembly emphasizes the need for organization of the peoples and their participation in the important task of defense, both military and economic. It acknowledges the outstanding role that the working people have played through their participation in the reserve battalions, in the Sandinist People's Militias, in their support of the interior minister's job of countering the foreign aggression, and in the strengthening and mobilization of the Sandinist People's Army. The massive incorporation of the peasants, the youth, and the city workers in harvesting coffee, the organized response of the industrial and agricultural workers and of the peasants organized in cooperatives or on an individual basis, were decisive elements in defending the economy against foreign aggression.

The Sandinist Assembly believes that the U.S. Government's risky terrorist policy against the Nicaraguan people is creating an increasingly serious political, military, and economic situation which demands a greater quota of sacrifice from the heroic people of Nicaragua in their daily effort to perform the important tasks that establish the foundations of a new society comprised of workers, peasants, soldiers, youngsters, women, professionals, and intellectuals -- patriotic Nicaraguans who are sincerely interested in the well-being of the working people.

This means that in addition to the military defense of the revolution, we must redouble our efforts to defend the people's economy, within which agricultural and industrial production are vital elements in the satisfaction of the people's demand for basic products.

The Sandinist Assembly believes that the task of military and economic defense, particularly the production and supply of the people's basic needs, must be undertaken with a greater level of organization, participation, discipline, and coordination within all the professional, mass, and social organizations that are part of the FSLN, the revolutionary government, and the Armed Forces.

The Sandinist Assembly believes that because the electoral effort that began this year is part of the process of institutionalization of the revolution it is also included in the defense of the revolution. The elections thus become a defensive task through which the Sandinist people will ratify the revolutionary triumph of 19 July 1979. We will ratify the platform of political, social, and economic change, as well as the measures that the revolutionary government has been implementing in accordance with those changes. The elections will ratify agrarian reform, the cooperatives, and the big agricultural projects.

The elections will ratify the confiscation of the goods that the Somozists and their accomplices stole from the people. They will ratify the nationalization of the banks, exports, mines, and natural resources. They will ratify the education, health, housing, land parceling, service, and social welfare projects that have been implemented, and they will defend the workers' right to form unions.

The elections will ratify the defense of sovereignty, self-determination, and independence of the Nicaraguan people. They will say "no" to the Somozist and imperialistic past and will say "yes" to the Sandinist popular revolution. They will ratify the Nicaraguan people's right to peace.

The third regular session of the 50th Anniversary Sandinist Assembly also gave special recognition to the relatives of heroes and martyrs, particularly the relatives of those children who have been victims of the terrorist action and genocidal policy promoted by the current U.S. Administration.

EX-DEFENSE MINISTER LARIOS RELEASED FROM JAIL

PA250344 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0016 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Bernardino Larios, former defense minister of this country, and former colonel in the extinct National Guard, has been released by Sandinist authorities after serving 3 years and 6 months in jail. According to reports today from judicial sources, Larios, who was the first Sandinist government defense minister, was released yesterday, 45 days after a Managua judge ordered his release.

Larios had been sentenced to 14 years in jail for "counterrevolutionary" activity, which included the kidnapping of the nine commanders who form the National Directorate of the FSLN. The Supreme Court annulled his sentence, however, because Larios had not rendered a sworn statement before a legally qualified judge. Larios' case was vigorously pleaded by the non-government Nicaraguan Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH) to the Sandinist government and before foreign parliamentary missions that have visited this country.

Further on Larios Case

PA251856 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1446 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Managua, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist government has released Lieutenant Colonel Bernardino Larios, former defense minister following the revolutionary triumph, after he had been imprisoned for more than 4 years.

Arrested on 9 September 1980 in a residential district of Managua, Larios was freed from prison 45 days after a judge in this capital had ordered his release.

It was learned that since the release order was not carried out, the prisoner's lawyer filed a writ of habeas corpus. It was reported that Captain Raul Cordon, director of the National Penitentiary, had even refused to receive the judge appointed by the Masaya Court of Appeals and had not obeyed the orders of the appeals court.

Larios was accused by Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge of heading an alleged conspiracy to kidnap the nine commanders of the FSLN Directorate. As part of the alleged plot, Larios was to have organized nine commando groups made up of 40 men, presumably foreigners, to carry out the plot simultaneously.

According to Nicaragua's Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH), which took an interest in Larios' case, the only testimony on which the charges against the former minister were based was that of Francisco Martinez, a prisoner of the Sandinist government. Eventually, the Supreme Court declared null all the proceedings of the trial against Larios because the prisoner had not rendered proper testimony before a competent judge.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE MEET, ELECT OFFICERS

PA250000 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17-18 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] The Council of Delegates of the Confederation of Nicaraguan Chambers of Commerce yesterday afternoon elected their vice president, representative, and alternate to the State Council and discussed matters of great interest. The meeting was at the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce auditorium at the Managua Trade Center [Centro Comercial Managua].

Agenda

Don Antonio Leiva, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce, gave the welcoming address to the delegates. Dr Orestes Romero Rojas, general manager of this private sector organization, later read the agenda. Meanwhile, Alberto Lacayo, secretary of the board of directors, presented a report on the work carried out by the group.

Elections

Carlos Porta, president of the Masaya Chamber of Commerce, was reelected vice president. Luis Irias, president of the Esteli Chamber of Commerce, was elected general secretary. Elected as delegates of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce to the State Council were: Juan Carlos Morales Angulo as the principal candidate, and Pedro Torres, president of the Leon Chamber of Commerce as alternate.

They Will Not Attend the State Council

The board of directors of the Confederation of Nicaraguan Chambers of Commerce did not authorize the two delegates' attendance at the State Council work sessions. It was specified that because of its membership in the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), the confederation does not think that the conditions exist for its participation in the colegislative debates.

EPS REPORTS CASUALTIES IN JINOTEGA CLASHES

PA240004 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2132 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A source from the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, today reports that 38 people were killed in various clashes in Jinotega Department in the northern part of the country. Of the 38 people killed during the armed clashes, 16 were members of the Militia Battalion 3446 and were buried today in San Rafael del Norte.

Commander Hugo Torres, EPS Political Section chief, disclosed that since last Sunday the militia battalion had been fighting the counterrevolutionary Julio Meza Task Force, which is led by Benito Bravo Centeno. The first encounter between the militia and the anti-Sandinists took place in the hills of Kinimowas. The Sandinist troops and the counterrevolutionaries have held successive clashes, which so far have left 38 dead, including 22 anti-Sandinists.

Commander Torres said that the EPS is carrying out an important operation in Jinotega Department by clashing with some of the forces that have infiltrated our territory from Honduras. Commander Torres added that the anti-Sandinist forces in Nicaragua are the same ones that invaded Nicaragua in November 1983, but were repelled, dispersed, and forced to return to Honduras.

He termed the country's situation "extremely serious," as a result of the air raids, naval attacks, mining of the country's ports, and constant reconnaissance flights over our territory. Commander Torres said that, to date, 2,572 counterrevolutionaries have been killed and 529 wounded in various clashes since 1982. Commander Torres did not specify the EPS casualties.

CONTRAS KILL 8 IN ATTACK ON SAN RAFAEL DEL NORTE

PA250310 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] For the second time, the people of San Rafael del Norte today heroically repelled another criminal attack by more than 200 Somozist guardsmen, thus preventing the criminal counterrevolutionaries from carrying out their sinister plans against the town. Official sources of the Defense Ministry tonight reported that the people of San Rafael del Norte repelled the group of Somozists after they had indiscriminately fired mortars on the town since 0500.

The counterrevolutionaries suffered a large number of casualties when they once again tried to seize San Rafael del Norte. The fighting between the heroic people of San Rafael del Norte and the assassin Somozist guardsmen lasted 4 and 1/2 hours. They then fled to their sanctuary in Honduras, leaving eight people, including two members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], dead. The eight new martyrs who are added to the long list of murders committed by Yankee imperialism through their servants, the Somozist guardsmen, are the following: Martin Casil Blanco and Norlan Mena Rodriguez, members of the EPS; Jose Jesus Rizo, coordinator of the San Rafael del Norte municipal board; and courageous militia members Miguel Angel Estrada, Mercedes Garcia, Jesus Pineda, Jose Leon Estrada, and Francisco Herrera.

All these martyrs of the Sandinist people's revolution showed in battle their unyielding position of a free fatherland or death by giving their lives to prevent the Somozist counterrevolutionaries from carrying out their sinister plans against our people. San Rafael del Norte, twice punished by the grief sent by the Reagan administration through the Somozist guardsmen, today wrote its second page of heroism in the history of a new free and Sandinist Nicaragua.

MUTILATED BODIES OF MILITIAMEN FOUND IN JINOTEGA

PA271420 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The mutilated bodies of two militiamen were found near San Rafael del Norte this weekend. The bodies of Jose Ramon Picado and Jesus Arauz showed signs of mutilation and torture. The two peasants were on guard duty when they were attacked by counterrevolutionary groups. San Rafael del Norte, which is located in Jinotega Department approximately 80 km from the Honduran border, was attacked by some 80 counterrevolutionaries on 19 and 23 March, when the Sandinist People's Army and the Sandinist People's Militias inflicted dozens of casualties on the Somozist mercenaries.

RUIZ CONTINUES VISIT TO USSR, EASTERN EUROPE

Signs Accord With USSR

For a Moscow TASS report on a meeting in Moscow between Planning Minister Henry Ruiz and Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, during which "documents aimed at a further deepening and widening of Soviet-Nicaraguan economic cooperation" were signed, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 28 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Holds Talks in GDR

For East Berlin ADN coverage of the visit to the GDR by Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and minister of planning, including a meeting with Werner Krolikowski, first deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and a press conference, see the GDR section of the 28 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SANTAMARIA, MELL RECEIVED ABROAD SOVIET SHIP

FL271250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria, FAR vice minister and chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy, and Oscar Fernandez Mell, president of the City of Havana Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, have visited the Soviet Navy flotilla's flagship which arrived yesterday in Havana. Both Cuban leaders were received abroad the antisubmarine cruiser Leningrad by Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov and other chiefs and officers of the flotilla.

R. Castro Meets Soviet Officer

FL280230 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee and FAR minister, has received Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov, chief of the Soviet naval detachment that is visiting us. Also present at the meeting were other major leaders of the FAR and Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev. The talks took place within the framework of the fraternal relations that unite the Cuban and Soviet peoples.

Rear Adm Fedor Starozhilov and the officers of the Soviet detachment also visited the Carlos Valillo Tobacco Factory. Here they were met by Hector Peraza Montes de Oca, administrator of the factory and political and mass organization leader of this center. This factory produces 11 million cigars a year and has 458 workers. After visiting the area where cigars are rolled, Rear Adm Fedor Starozhilov addressed the workers and expressed his satisfaction at being in Cuba, the sister nation of the Soviet Union.

Rear Adm Starozhilov, accompanied by Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado, chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy, toured the Museum of the City of Havana, where they weremet by Eusebio Leal, director of the museum. During their visit they toured various rooms, including the Flag Room, where there is an oil painting by a Cuban independence fighthter who was of Russian ancestry. The Soviet naval officers also enjoyed the museum's central patio, where there is a statue of Christopher Colombus. Later they toured various historical areas of the old section of Havana.

PEREZ MEETS WITH HUNGARIAN PLANNING OFFICIALS

FL272155 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1709 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Budapest -- Humberto Perez, minister president of Cuba's Central Planning Board [JUCEPLAN], and Lajos Faluvegi, chairman of Hungary's National Planning Office, have met and discussed matters of mutual interest. The officials, both vice presidents of their respective nation's Council of Ministers, also discussed developing cooperation within various economic spheres, specifically the production of Icarus buses in Cuba. They discussed plans for economic cooperation between Cuba and Hungary over the next 5 years, 1986-90, as well as long-term plans.

BRITISH TRADE DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE

FL271315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A British delegation of businessmen is scheduled to arrive in Havana to participate in the first session of the Anglo-Cuban Trade Council [Consejo de Comercio Anglo-Cubano]. The British delegation is headed by Lord Taylor Gaith accompanied by Angela Cummings, member of the Confederation of British Industrialists [Confederacion de Industrialies Britanicos]. Several industry representatives and other officials are also members of the delegation. The first session of the Anglo-Cuban Trade Council will be underway until 1 April.

LEZCANO ON TALKS WITH UK PARLIAMENT MEMBERS

FL271405 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Talks which have begun in Havana among members of the legislatures of Cuba and the United Kingdom have been described as beneficial for Cuba and the United Kingdom as well as for the rest of the world. Jorge Lezcano, member of the Council of State and vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, as well as the head of the Cuban delegation to these talks, has made this observation.

The leader of the British delegation is Hughes Dyke, member of the ruling Conservative Party. The British Parliament member expressed appreciation for the friendly welcome his group received and expressed hopes for future UK-Cuban relations desipe existing differences.

The first meeting of the Anglo-Cuban Trade Council began in Havana on Monday. Lord Taylor Gaith, chairman of this council, arrived in Havana to attend the meeting.

SPAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTER CITED ON RELATIONS

FL271337 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran has stated that Spain does not have to hide its ties with Cuba. In remarks published by a Buenos Aires morning newspaper, Moran referred to a recent embrace between Fidel Castro and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in Madrid. Moran said that their meeting shows the clear willingness of the Spanish Government to have a policy geared toward Latin America.

FIDEL, RAUL, ALMEIDA, VALDES RECEIVE MEDALS

FL271310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army General Raul Castro, first and second secretaries of the party, respectively, received the Eliseo Reyes medal last night on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the state security forces. Commanders of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosquez and Ramiro Valdes also received this deco In addition, the medal was given to a large group of chiefs, officers, and founders of the state security forces.

The ceremony to commemorate this anniversary had been held a few hours before. It was presided over by Commander in Chief Castro. Division General Jose Abrahantes, member of the Central Committee and first vice minister of the Interior Ministry, closed the event. He highlighted the broad and irreproachable record of the state security forces at the service and safeguard of the revolution and noted that each of their members is willing to honorably fulfill every mission assigned to them.

U.S. JETLINER HIJACKED, LANDS IN CAPITAL

FL280018 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] A twin-engine U.S. commercial jet with 52 people aboard was diverted to Cuba this afternoon and landed at 1630 [2130 GMT] at Jose Marti International Airport.

Hijacker Held

PA272254 Paris AFP in Spanish 2231 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Havana, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Jose Marti Airport authorities have reported that a black man was responsible for the hijacking of a Boeing-737 belonging to Piedmont Airlines, a U.S. company. Diplomatic sources reported earlier that according to information received from the United States there were three hijackers involved.

According to the source, the man responsible for the hijacking is in the hands of Cuban authorities, and at 1700 hours (2200 GMT) the passengers were safe and having something to eat at the airport terminal. The airport has reported that the aircraft is being checked for its return flight to Miami and that it would take off as soon as it was technically feasible.

Plane Departs

PA280018 Paris AFP in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Havana, 27 Mar (AFP) -- The Boeing-737 from the U.S. Piedmont Airlines that was hijacked to Cuba left for Miami shortly after 1830 (2330 GMT), the Jose Marti airport authorities reported. The plane had been hijacked by a black U.S. citizen approximately 30 years old who gave himself up to the authorities here, according to the same source.

SALVADORAN ELECTIONS TERMED FRAUDULENT

FL271545 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The U.S.-backed, fixed Salvadoran presidential elections have been described as disastrous by various media sources. The vote count was suspended due to accusations of partiality on the part of the head of this task, a U.S. citizen. The count which has already been completed shows that none of the candidates obtained the required 50 percent of the votes.

Violence and coercion characterized the elections and democracy did not exist, even for the right-wing party. In Ilopango, the ultrarightist party ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] forced the other political party representatives to leave the Electoral College, and then, in classic fascist manner, refilled their own ballot boxes with all the ballots.

To this situation we must add that there were also power shortages due to guerrilla attacks. Tens of thousands of persons did not vote in response to the patriots' call. The FMLN described the elections as a farce used by the Yankee military to facilitate an intervention in El Salvador.

The regime's soldiers sustained more than 40 casualties on election day in guerrilla attacks carried out in various parts of the country. The new week began with the intense fighting in Tejutepeque, Cinquera, and other cities, and during the elections the military bombed several towns in various municipalities of Cabanas and Morazan Departments.

SALVADORAN REBELS DAMAGE HELICOPTER, ATTACK TOWN

FL271617 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Salvadoran rebel forces damaged a U.S.-made helicopter, occupied a town, and recovered many weapons in actions carried out in the past few hours. During the fighting in Tejutepeque, the FMLN forces clashed with two companies of the Cobra Battalion, inflicting at least 30 casualties on them.

Meanwhile, in San Salvador, the Christian Democratic Party, headed by Jose Napoleon Duarte, claimed victory in the electoral farce held on Sunday. The rebel station Radio Farabundo Marti disclosed that approximately 90 municipalities of a total of 261 which make up the Salvadoran territory did not participate in this farce.

NICARAGUA CHARGES U.S. MAIN OBSTACLE TO PEACE

FL271630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Nicaragua has charged that the U.S. policy toward Central America is the main obstacle to new and definitive progress by the Contadora Group.

The Nicaraguan Government has issued a communique analyzing the deterioration of the situation in the isthmus and the existing doubt of finding a peaceful solution because of the aggressive attitude of the United States. It especially noted the danger implied by an increase in U.S. troops and military equipment, the placing of mines in the waters of Nicaraguan ports, and the $21-million request to increase the aggression against Nicaragua.

The document warned that the fact that the Salvadoran civil war is not mentioned in the agenda of the Contadora Group weakens the possibilities of solving the regional crisis.

NICARAGUAN ASSEMBLY REVIEWS ACHIEVEMENTS, PLANS

PA271259 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] For 3 days the Sandinist Assembly in Managua has examined important matters related to the country's defense, the consolidation of the revolutionary process, and the economy. The assembly, which is the consultative body of the FSLN, paid particular attention to the increase in terrorist activities against Nicaragua, such as the placement of mines in its ports, which prove the U.S. disregard for international law and hinder the Contadora Group's efforts toward peace.

After evaluating the political, economic, and military situation that prevails in the country due to the U.S. terrorist activities, the Sandinist Assembly stated that this reality demands even greater sacrifices from the Nicaraguan people for the construction of the new society.

Finally, the Sandinist Assembly stated that the upcoming 4 November elections will ratify the revolutionary alternative of 19 July 1979 and the people's support for the social, political, and economic transformation plans begun since then by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Other reports coming from Managua state that Nicaragua has lodged another protest note against the Honduran regime for the attack that a combined group of Honduran Army members and Somozist mercenaries perpetrated on Sunday against several Nicaraguan zones in Chinandega Department.

NICARAGUAN PLANNING MINISTER VISITS USSR, GDR

Signs Agreements With USSR

PA270455 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Planning Minister Henry Ruiz has stressed in Moscow the remarkable improvement in the friendly relations between Nicaragua and the Soviet Union and the influence of these relations in the field of bilateral economic cooperation.

As a part of his visit to the Soviet Union, Ruiz signed several agreements to extend cooperation in fields such as oil exploitation and the textile industry. The protocols were also signed by the president of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Yakov Petrovich Ryabov. Nearly 20 economic plans are being carried out in Nicaragua with Soviet aid.

Meets With GDR's Krolikowski

FL271825 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The GDR has stated that it supports Nicaragua's efforts to find a solution to Central American tensions, and it has also demanded that the United States cease its aggressive policies toward Nicaragua. In a period when imperialism supports policies of confrontation which result in increased tensions, the GDR is reiterating that it will continue to firmly support Nicaragua, said Werner Krolikowski, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Politburo, who met with Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and Nicaragua's planning minister, who is visiting the GDR.

CONTRAS ATTACK PEASANT COOPERATIVES IN NICARAGUA

FL271827 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionaries who entered Nicaragua from Honduras through Matagalpa Department have attacked peasant cooperatives killing 2 people, wounding 3, and kidnapping 15.

The counterrevolutionary attack coincided with the culmination of the U.S.-Honduran maneuvers, Kilo Punch, and the arrival of the first contingent of Yankee troops that will participate in the new aggressive maneuvers "Grenadier I."

IDB MEETING IN URUGUAY CLOSE TO FAILURE

FL280042 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] In Uruguay, where a national protest similar to the one today in Chile is being planned, the meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank -- controlled by the United States -- is close to failure. The delicate problem of the Latin American foreign debt -- the predominant theme of the IDB meeting in the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este -- was passed over by the participants, who chose to hold a tournament of rhetoric. There is no concensus among IDB members on presenting a common position to the Latin American creditors [as heard], according to analysts.

URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST COMMENTS ON BROAD FRONT

PA240115 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Statement by Eduardo Viera, member of the Political Commission of the Communist Party of Uruguay, during station interview; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] We have always expressed our commitment to defend by all means the participation of the Broad Front in the country's daily life. At one time a leftist sector also said that the Broad Front's activities in national life had doubled.

We do not believe the problems of the country's future, dependency, imperialist oppression, and the use of financial capital have yet been tackled in the correct way. In other words, the entire Broad Front program is still applicable. The struggle continues, and some new sectors are joining our effort. Therefore, the Broad Front is very much alive.

We have always been exposed to certain attempts to minimize its role. Therefore, on the one hand we need a united left wing. This is the Broad Front's objective. On the other hand we need the unity of all democratic forces. These two things are fundamental because there is an apparent free unity in other parties; there is an apparent democratic unity in other countries. However, if the left wing is not united, that other unity might not survive, or it might only get halfway to its objective. Sometimes we only achieve unity of the left wing; however, if we cannot also unite the entire opposition in the struggle against the dictatorship and fascism, then the left wing force will not achieve anything.

This is why we need these two legs to walk: the Broad Front and the unity of all opposition forces. This is our policy. The Communist Party's policy following the coup d'etat was first to accept no ties with the dictatorship, and second to seek unity and convergence, unity being mainly the voice of society expressed through the actions of the workers central, the CNT [National Convention of Workers], and the Broad Front; and convergence keeping in mind the practicality of coincidental stands, always bearing in mind the practicality of coincidental stands against the dictatorship.

Therefore, the struggle against the plebiscite represented this convergence, as did the struggle against the 1982 elections. Of course we are not alone now. This is why we are now talking about a unity plan. We have held meetings that have been coordinated by all authorized and outlawed parties. The Broad Front wants to move toward this goal by achieving agreement on a platform; a national agreement leading toward reconstruction, actually leading to the reconstruction of the country.

Undoubtedly, our policy is to achieve a return to democratic freedom in Uruguay. However, our policy, which we believe reflects the people's will, does not involve only a return to democracy but a return through progress. We are struggling for what we call an advanced democracy. This concept of advanced democracy cannot yet be reflected in a government of the Broad Front. It would take a government, a provisional government, one might say, that would lead to more profound changes.

Our current social structure can and must achieve a government that would break away from the IMF; a government with an independent political policy; a government that would satisfy the most pressing demands of the workers, who have been affected the most by the country's economic policy. However, other sectors, such as the middle class sector, rural sectors traumatized by debts owed to the banks, and the industrial sectors, are also affected by this ill-named liberal policy that follows the economic thought of the University of Chicago, which is based on the idea of financial capital.

An advanced democracy has an independent foreign policy; it is nonaligned; it is genuinely Latin American; it is a government that would stand up to Reagan's warmongering and interventionist policy.

Naturally, the Broad Front continues to carry out its program. We think that we must go even further. We want a significant change in the country. As communists, our ideology and objective is socialism. And the socialism we are seeking was established by the Cuban revolution in America in 1959.

MEXICO'S DE LA MADRID VISITS COLOMBIA

FL271415 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid started the 2d day of his visit to Colombia today. This is the first leg of a trip that will also include Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Panama. Observers linked this trip with peace efforts for Central America in view of the red-hot situation in that area. It was said that De la Madrid and his Colombian counterpart Belisario Betancur will discuss the Central American situation in Bogota and will outline a strategy that will be explained to the other two Contadora Group members, Venezuela and Panama.

Meets With President

FL271954 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota -- Mexican President Miguel de La Madrid and Colombian President Belisario Betancur will meet again today in order to define the Contadora Group's role in the Central American crisis. Another item that will be discussed during the leaders' second meeting will be the strengthening of economic, trade, and cultural relations between the two nations.

The two presidents held their first working meeting last night, which their respective delegation members also attended. A banquet in De la Madrid's honor was held after the meeting at which President Betancur bestowed upon President De la Madrid the Order of the Cross of Boyaca. At the banquet both presidents agreed that the Contadora Group was the only tool which could achieve a harmonious coexistence for the Central American region.

ECUADOR

GOVERNMENT LIFTS 10-DAY STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA280200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0132 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Quito, 27 Mar (EFE) -- The Ecuadoran Government today lifted the state of emergency decreed 10 days ago to counter the general strike decreed in two oil-producing provinces.

Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado signed the corresponding decree this afternoon, and it became effective today. The national state of emergency was decreed due to the danger which the strike in the Provinces of Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas represented for the national economy as oil is produced and refined in these two provinces.

GUYANA

ASSISTANCE FROM IDB, EAST GERMANY GRANTED

FL271705 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Guyana is to receive aid from both the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] and East Germany. The IDB has announced the approval of a technical cooperation grant of $780,000 to help out the forestry industry. The Guyana Stock Seed, Ltd. has signed a protocol for acquiring a new stock feed mill for [figure indistinct] from East Germany. The new mill will replace the 31-year-old equipment now in operation. The stock feed facility is under the management of the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation. And, the forestry industry grant will be used to make the forestry industries more cost effective and efficient.

SURINAME

16 DEPORTED FOR ACTIONS AGAINST BOUTERSE

FL261330 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Sixteen Surinamese, expelled by French Guiana after falling under suspicion that they were preparing action against the Suriname military leader Colonel Desi Bouterse, will shortly be deported to Holland. Since being expelled by the authorities in French Guiana, they have been detained in a Curacao prison. Of the 16, 13 have Dutch nationality, 2 are Suriname passport holders, and 1 is travelling on an alien's passport issued by the Netherlands. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in The Hague has confirmed reports from French Guiana that the 16 were found to be in possession of weapons on being arrested. The members of the group include former Army Lieutenant (Roy Bouterse), who fled to Holland after the 1980 coup d'etat in Suriname, and former trade union leader Mr Glenn (Tien A Quit), the latter is a member of the Council for the Liberation of Suriname, an organization of expatriates based in Holland and led by the former Suriname President Chin-A-Sen.